

Public Law 95-272  
95th Congress

Joint Resolution

May 3, 1978

[H.J. Res. 649]

To authorize the President to call a White House Conference on the Arts, and to authorize the President to call a White House Conference on the Humanities.

White House  
Conferences on  
Arts and  
Humanities.  
1979 White  
House  
Conference on  
the Arts Act.  
20 USC 951 note.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

TITLE I—WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE ARTS

SHORT TITLE

SEC. 101. This title may be referred to as the "1979 White House Conference on the Arts Act".

FINDINGS

20 USC 951 note.

SEC. 102. The Congress hereby finds and declares—

(1) that the development and encouragement of arts activity in the United States are of the utmost importance to the Nation's life and heritage;

(2) that concern for the quality of life in the United States requires constant dedication, planning, and reflection on the state of the arts in the Nation;

(3) that the arts have an increasingly significant impact on the economic sector of our society;

(4) that it is appropriate to encourage the maximum and broadest participation by the Nation's citizenry, including, but not limited to, artists, knowledgeable citizens and other interested persons, representatives of State and local governments, labor, agriculture, business and industry, educators (including art educators) and experts in all fields of the arts, in the process of insuring needed support for the arts among all parties concerned at Federal, State, and local levels; and

(5) that in order to implement these findings, it is desirable to call a White House Conference on the Arts.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE ARTS

20 USC 951 note.

SEC. 103. (a) The President shall call a White House Conference on the Arts to be held no later than December 31, 1979. The purpose of the Conference shall be to help develop a climate in which the arts can flourish, and recommendations to formulate an assessment of problems and issues relating to the arts, and to develop recommendations relating to the appropriate growth of the arts in all parts of the Nation.

(b) The Conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of a Presidentially appointed National Conference Planning Council on the Arts headed by a Chairman (appointed by the President) from among the members of the Council. Each department and agency of the Federal Government shall provide such cooperation and assistance to the Council, including the assignment of personnel; as may reasonably be required by the Council.

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE PLANNING COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

SEC. 104. (a) There is hereby established a National Conference Planning Council on the Arts. The Council shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the President. The Council shall provide guidance and planning for the Conference.

Establishment.  
20 USC 951 note.

(b) (1) Any member of the Council who is otherwise employed by the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to compensation received in his regular employment.

(2) Members of the Council, other than any member referred to in paragraph (1), shall receive pay at rates not to exceed the daily rate in effect for GS-18 in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day they are engaged in the performance of their duties (including time engaged in travel). While so serving away from their homes or regular places of business, such members shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as authorized in section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons in Government service employed intermittently.

Compensation.

Travel expenses.

(c) The Council shall cease to exist 180 days, unless extended by the President, but in no event a period not to exceed one year, after the submission of the report required in section 105.

Termination.

## REPORT

SEC. 105. A report of the Conference shall be submitted by the Council to the President and to the Congress no later than 180 days following the date on which the Conference is called and shall include recommendations for any legislative action necessary to implement the recommendations in the required report. The report shall immediately be made available to the public.

Reports to  
President and  
Congress.  
20 USC 951 note.  
Public  
availability.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 106. In carrying out the provisions of this title, the Council and the Chairman shall—

20 USC 951 note.

(1) request the cooperation and assistance of such other Federal departments and agencies as may be appropriate, including Federal advisory bodies having responsibilities in areas affecting the arts;

(2) render all reasonable assistance, including financial assistance, to the States in enabling them to organize and conduct conferences on the arts before the Conference;

(3) prepare and make available necessary background materials for the use of delegates to the Conference;

(4) prepare and distribute such interim reports of the Conference as may be appropriate; and

(5) appoint such individuals as may be necessary without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive civil service, and without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, but at rates of pay not to exceed the rate prescribed for GS-18 in section 5332 of such title.

Appointments.

5 USC 5101,  
5331.

## GRANTS

SEC. 107. From any sums appropriated under section 108, the Chairman, with the approval of the Council, may make a grant to each State, upon application by the State arts agency of the State, in order

20 USC 951 note.

to assist in defraying the costs of the State in participating in the Conference program, including the conduct of at least one conference within the State: *Provided*, That broad and maximum public participation is assured by such State arts agency which would include, but not be limited to, artists, knowledgeable citizens and other interested persons, representatives of State and local government, labor, agriculture, business and industry, educators (including art educators), and experts in all fields of the arts.

#### AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

20 USC 951 note. SEC. 108. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title.

#### DEFINITIONS

20 USC 951 note. SEC. 109. For purposes of this title—

- (1) the term "Chairman" means the Chairman of the National Conference Planning Council on the Arts;
- (2) the term "Conference" means the White House Conference on the Arts;
- (3) the term "Council" means the National Conference Planning Council on the Arts;
- (4) the term "State" means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession of the United States; and
- (5) the term "arts" includes, but is not limited to, music (instrumental and vocal), dance, drama, theater, folk, art, creative writing, architecture and allied fields, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, industrial design, costume and fashion design, motion pictures, television, radio, tape, and sound recording, and the arts related to the presentation, performance, execution, and exhibition of such major art forms.

## TITLE II—WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE HUMANITIES

1979 White House Conference on the Humanities Act.

#### SHORT TITLE

20 USC 951 note. SEC. 201. This title may be cited as the "1979 White House Conference on the Humanities Act".

#### FINDINGS

20 USC 951 note. SEC. 202. The Congress hereby finds and declares—

- (1) that the development and encouragement of national strength in the humanities is of the utmost importance to the life and heritage of the United States;
- (2) that concern for the vitality of democratic institutions, the character of national policies, and the application of our national heritage to the needs of the present and future requires full commitment to, planning for, and reflection on the role of the humanities in national life;
- (3) that the humanities make an increasingly significant contribution to public and private decisions having major social and economic impact;

(4) that the relationship of the humanities to the health and pluralism of the Nation's culture and system of education is of fundamental importance;

(5) that it is appropriate to encourage the maximum and broadest participation by the Nation's citizenry, including knowledgeable citizens and other interested persons, State and local government, institutions and organizations in the humanities, representatives of labor, agriculture, business and industry, educators, scholars, and other participants in all fields of the humanities in the process of insuring needed support among all parties concerned at Federal, State, and local levels;

(6) that in order to implement these findings, it is desirable to call a White House Conference on the Humanities.

#### WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE HUMANITIES

SEC. 203. (a) The President shall call a White House Conference on the Humanities to be held no later than December 31, 1979. The purpose of the Conference shall be to help develop a climate in which the humanities can flourish, to formulate an assessment of problems and issues relating to the humanities, and to develop recommendations relating to strengthening the humanities in all parts of the Nation.

20 USC 951 note.

(b) The Conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of a Presidentially appointed National Planning Council on the Humanities headed by a Chairman (appointed by the President) from among the members of the Council. Each department and agency of the Federal Government shall provide such cooperation and assistance to the Council, including the assignment of personnel, as may reasonably be required by the Council.

#### NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES

SEC. 204. (a) There is hereby established a National Planning Council on the Humanities. The Council shall be composed of 15 members appointed by the President. The Council shall provide guidance and planning for the Conference.

Establishment.  
20 USC 951 note.

(b) (1) Any member of the Council who is otherwise employed by the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to compensation received in his regular employment.

(2) Members of the Council, other than any member referred to in paragraph (1), shall receive pay at rates not to exceed the daily rate in effect for GS-18 in section 5332 of title 5, United States Code, for each day they are engaged in the performance of their duties (including time engaged in travel). While so serving away from their homes or regular places of business, such members shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as authorized in section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for persons in Government service employed intermittently.

Compensation.

Travel expenses.

(c) The Council shall cease to exist 180 days, unless extended by the President, but in no event a period not to exceed one year, after the submission of the report required in section 205.

Termination.

#### REPORT

SEC. 205. A report of the Conference shall be submitted by the Council to the President and to the Congress no later than 180 days following the date on which the Conference is called and shall include recommendations for any legislative action necessary to implement the recommendations in the required report. The report shall immediately be made available to the public.

Reports to  
President and  
Congress.  
20 USC 951 note.

Public  
availability.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

20 USC 951 note. SEC. 206. In carrying out the provisions of this title, the Council and the Chairman shall—

(1) request the cooperation and assistance of such other Federal departments and agencies as may be appropriate, including Federal advisory bodies having responsibilities in areas affecting the humanities;

(2) render all reasonable assistance, including financial assistance, to the States in enabling them to organize and conduct conferences on the humanities before the Conference;

(3) prepare and make available necessary background materials for the use of delegates to the Conference;

(4) prepare and distribute such interim reports of the Conference as may be appropriate; and

(5) appoint such individuals as may be necessary without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive civil service, and without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, but at rates of pay not to exceed the rate prescribed for GS-18 in section 5332 of such title.

5 USC 5101,  
5331.

## GRANTS

20 USC 951 note. SEC. 207. (a) From any sums appropriated under section 208, the Chairman with the approval of Council, may make a grant to each State, upon application by the State humanities entity of the State, in order to assist in defraying the costs of the State in participating in the Conference program, including the conduct of at least one conference within the State: *Provided*, That the broadest and maximum public participation is assured by such State humanities entity which would include, but would not be limited to, knowledgeable citizens and other interested persons, State and local government, institutions and organizations in the humanities, representatives of labor, agriculture, business and industry, educators, scholars, and other participants in all fields of the humanities.

## AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

20 USC 951 note. SEC. 208. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title.

## DEFINITIONS

20 USC 951 note. SEC. 209. For purposes of this title—

(1) the term "Chairman" means the Chairman of the National Planning Council on the Humanities;

(2) the term "Conference" means the White House Conference on the Humanities;

(3) the term "Council" means the National Planning Council on the Humanities;

(4) the term "State" means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Northern Marianas, and any other territory or possession of the United States; and

(5) the term "humanities" includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism, theory, and practice of the arts; those aspects of the Social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.

### TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

SEC. 301. (a) Section 804 of the Education Amendments of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1221-1 note) is amended by striking out "1977" each place it appears therein and inserting in lieu thereof "1980".

(b) Section 804(e) of the Education Amendments of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1221-1 note) is amended by striking out "June 30, 1978" and inserting in lieu thereof "September 30, 1981".

Approved May 3, 1978.

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#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-887 (Comm. on Education and Labor).

SENATE REPORT No. 95-736 (Comm. on Human Resources).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 124 (1978):

Feb. 21, considered and passed House.

Apr. 18, considered and passed Senate.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 14, No. 18:

May 3, Presidential statement.