

Authorizing Texas Commission on the Arts mini-grant award process

HB 1023 by Berman (Watson)

DIGEST: HB 1023 would have authorized the Texas Commission on the Arts to adopt rules to delegate to the executive director authority for approving grants of less than \$500. The commission would have had to review grants approved by the executive director at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

**GOVERNOR'S
REASON FOR
VETO:**

“House Bill No. 1023 would add the Texas Commission on the Arts’ (TCA) mini-grant process to the agency’s enabling legislation to reflect the current rules and practices of the commission.

“Current state law reflects only the commission’s annual grant process. In the mini-grant process, the commission delegates the authority to approve grant awards of \$500 or less to the executive director. The awards are reviewed quarterly by the full commission.

“Awarding grants is one of three primary functions of the TCA and should, therefore, be a process that the commissioners actively engage in. Current statute requires the commission to ‘develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policy-making responsibilities of the commission and the management responsibilities of the executive director.’ The mini-grant process circumvents the commissioners’ role in grant approval by allowing the executive director to approve grant awards. Commissioners need to do their job.”

RESPONSE: Neither Rep. Leo Berman, the bill’s author, nor Sen. Kirk Watson, the Senate sponsor, had a comment on the veto.

NOTES: HB 1023 passed the House on the Local, Consent and Resolutions Calendar and was not analyzed in a *Daily Floor Report*.