



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

February 24, 2015

Motion 14299

Proposed No. 2015-0068.1

**Sponsors Hague, Phillips, von Reichbauer,
Dembowski, McDermott and Dunn**

1 A MOTION supporting passage of state legislation
2 enabling creation of cultural access funds.

3 WHEREAS, arts, science and heritage organizations help make Washington a
4 great place to live, work and play, and

5 WHEREAS, access to arts, heritage and science experiences advances education,
6 enhances the economy, enriches our quality of life and strengthens our communities, and

7 WHEREAS, an ArtsFund Economic Impact Study found that spending by King,
8 Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish county arts, cultural and scientific organizations and
9 spending by their patrons supported 32,520 jobs and generated nearly \$2 billion in
10 business activity in 2009, and

11 WHEREAS, communities that are home to vibrant cultural organizations are
12 more competitive for high quality workers and enjoy greater economic prosperity. For
13 more rural communities, it allows for support to heritage sites, local festivals and family
14 programs, and

15 WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts reported that 2012 data from The College
16 Board, a leading advocate and resource for excellence and equity in education, shows that
17 students who took four years of arts and music classes while in high school scored about
18 100 points better on their SATs than students who took only one-half year or less, and

19 WHEREAS, this legislation would enable counties to create cultural access funds
20 to support cultural organizations at the local level; and these funds would enable
21 thousands of citizens and K-12 students greater access to cultural and educational
22 activities through free and reduced-priced admissions, expanded experiences at schools
23 or on-site, and increased outreach activities in underserved populations, and

24 WHEREAS, new policies are needed in Washington to enable local governments
25 to increase access to these educational experiences, and

26 WHEREAS, the states of Colorado, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Missouri have
27 adopted legislation authorizing the use of special tax districts to support arts and cultural
28 organizations;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

30 A. The council acknowledges the importance of arts, heritage and science
31 organizations and their impact on the quality of life in the Puget Sound region; and

32 B. The council supports passage of state legislation that would enable local

33 governments to create cultural access funds that would increase access to cultural
34 experiences for children and adults across Washington.
35

Motion 14299 was introduced on 2/2/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King
County Council on 2/23/2015, by the following vote:


Yes: 8 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert,
Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Hague

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None