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## Governor Signs MO Arts Council Funding Bill

JEFFERSON CITY—Unclear language in current state law that placed a cap on funding for the Missouri Arts Council will soon be removed after the governor today signed [House Bill 299](#), handled in the Senate by Sen. David Pearce (R-Warrensburg).

The bill, which officially becomes law on August 28, removes the annual \$10 million appropriation limit on funding for the Missouri Arts Council. This cap was created from the estimate of state revenues from the non-resident professional athletes and entertainers tax, when in actuality, the tax has brought in around \$16 million in revenue over the last year.

“This is a good way to support the Missouri Arts Council without taking money from general revenue,” Sen. Pearce said. “Unclear language in the state statutes was taking away funding from the council, and this tax is its only source of revenue.”

The Missouri Arts Council is a division of the state’s Department of Economic Development that provides grants to non-profit organizations to encourage and stimulate the growth, development and appreciation of the arts in Missouri. Organizations that receive grants include libraries, public broadcasting entities and local arts councils. The council also funds projects with an artistic component that are open to the public, such as performance arts, educational programs and arts festivals.

“Missouri artists come from all walks of life and every corner of the state,” Sen. Pearce said. “This bill was important to pass so we can continue to support the arts in Missouri. I was honored to carry HB 299 in the Senate.”



*Senator David Pearce  
at the signing of HB  
299 in the governor's  
Capitol office.  
Senator Pearce  
handled the bill in the  
Senate.*

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