

By Senator Lynn

32-03528-08

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Florida Poet Laureate; amending s.  
3 265.285, F.S.; specifying that duties of the Florida Arts  
4 Council include the promotion of poetry literature by  
5 recommending nominations for the Florida Poet Laureate;  
6 creating s. 265.2863, F.S.; creating the honorary position  
7 of Florida Poet Laureate; providing for appointment;  
8 providing that the Florida Poet Laureate does not receive  
9 compensation; providing for the nomination process;  
10 providing responsibilities of the Florida Arts Council;  
11 providing criteria for the Florida Poet Laureate position;  
12 providing term of service; providing for the filling of a  
13 vacancy; requiring the Division of Cultural Affairs of the  
14 Department of State to adopt rules; requiring the  
15 Secretary of State to annually request an appropriation to  
16 carry out the purposes of the section if certain other  
17 sources of funding are not available; providing for  
18 designation of Florida Poet Laureate Emeritus; providing  
19 an effective date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22  
23 Section 1. Paragraph (j) is added to subsection (2) of  
24 section 265.285, Florida Statutes, to read:

25 265.285 Florida Arts Council; membership, duties.--

26 (2) The duties of the council shall be to:

27 (j) Promote reading, writing, and appreciation of poetry  
28 throughout the state by recommending nominations for the Florida

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29 Poet Laureate to the Secretary of State for selection by the  
30 Governor.

31 Section 2. Section 265.2863, Florida Statutes, is created  
32 to read:

33 265.2863 Florida Poet Laureate.--

34 (1) (a) The honorary position of Florida Poet Laureate is  
35 hereby created.

36 (b)1. The Florida Poet Laureate shall be appointed by the  
37 Governor from a list of no more than three nominees provided by  
38 the Secretary of State and recommended by the Florida Arts  
39 Council pursuant to s. 265.285 and this section.

40 2. The Florida Poet Laureate shall not receive  
41 compensation.

42 (c) The Florida Arts Council shall solicit nominations from  
43 a broad array of literary sources and individuals, including, but  
44 not limited to:

45 1. University and college literature departments.

46 2. Literary organizations, societies, and centers.

47 3. Poetry book publishers and poetry editors.

48 4. Other state poets laureate.

49 (2) Each nominee for Florida Poet Laureate submitted to the  
50 Governor by the Secretary of State and recommended by the Florida  
51 Arts Council must be a permanent Florida resident and a published  
52 literary poet of significant standing in Florida and elsewhere,  
53 must be willing and physically able to engage in outreach and  
54 mentoring for the benefit of schools and communities throughout  
55 the state, and must perform such other duties as required. The  
56 Florida Poet Laureate may give readings of his or her own poetry  
57 as requested.

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58       (3) (a) The term of service of the Florida Poet Laureate  
59 shall be 4 years, beginning with the third year of a  
60 gubernatorial term of office and ending at the conclusion of the  
61 second year of the following gubernatorial term of office. The  
62 Florida Poet Laureate must serve until a new Florida Poet  
63 Laureate is appointed.

64       (b) Any vacancy in the appointment of the Florida Poet  
65 Laureate shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term  
66 in the same manner as the original appointment.

67       (4) The Division of Cultural Affairs of the Department of  
68 State shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of  
69 this section, including, but not limited to, procedures for  
70 accepting nominations, making recommendations for appointments of  
71 the Florida Poet Laureate, and providing travel expenses for such  
72 appointment.

73       (5) The Secretary of State shall annually request an  
74 appropriation sufficient to carry out the purposes of this  
75 section, if such resources are not available through the citizen  
76 support organization created in s. 265.703 or through other  
77 public or private funding sources.

78       Section 3. The Poet Laureate for the State of Florida  
79 serving on the effective date of this act shall, upon the  
80 appointment of the Florida Poet Laureate pursuant to s. 265.2863,  
81 Florida Statutes, as created by this act, be designated the  
82 Florida Poet Laureate Emeritus in recognition of his service to  
83 the state.

84       Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.