

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.

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

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 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

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
 43 from a broad array of literary sources and individuals,
 44 including, but 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
 50 the Governor by the Secretary of State and recommended by the
 51 Florida Arts Council must be a permanent Florida resident and a
 52 published literary poet of significant standing in Florida and
 53 elsewhere, must be willing and physically able to engage in
 54 outreach and mentoring for the benefit of schools and
 55 communities throughout the state, and must perform such other

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56 duties as required. The Florida Poet Laureate may give readings
57 of his or her own poetry as requested.

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
71 of the Florida Poet Laureate, and providing travel expenses for
72 such 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.
81 265.2863, Florida Statutes, as created by this act, be
82 designated the Florida Poet Laureate Emeritus in recognition of
83 his service to the state.

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