

HB 1479

2012

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the State Poet Laureate; amending
3 s. 265.285, F.S.; assigning duties to the Florida
4 Council on Arts and Culture relating to the promotion
5 of poetry and recommendations for the appointment of
6 the State Poet Laureate; creating s. 265.2863, F.S.;
7 creating the honorary position of State Poet Laureate
8 within the Department of State; providing for the
9 acceptance of nominations, the qualifications and
10 recommendation of nominees, and the appointment of the
11 State Poet Laureate; providing terms and the process
12 for filling vacancies; specifying that any former poet
13 laureate becomes a State Poet Laureate Emeritus;
14 providing that the State Poet Laureate and State Poet
15 Laureate Emeritus shall serve without compensation;
16 authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing
17 an effective date.

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

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

23 265.285 Florida Council on Arts and Culture; membership,
24 duties.—

25 (2) The council shall:

26 (h) Promote the reading, writing, and appreciation of
27 poetry throughout the state and accept nominations and recommend

28 nominees for appointment as the State Poet Laureate under s.
 29 265.2863.

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

32 265.2863 State Poet Laureate.—

33 (1) The honorary position of State Poet Laureate is
 34 created within the Department of State.

35 (2) (a) The Florida Council on Arts and Culture, in
 36 accordance with procedures adopted by the department, shall
 37 accept nominations for appointment as the State Poet Laureate.

38 The council shall solicit nominations from a broad array of
 39 literary sources and individuals, including, but not limited to:

40 1. Faculty of college and university literature
 41 departments.

42 2. Literary organizations, societies, and centers.

43 3. Publishers and editors of books of poetry.

44 4. The state poets laureate of any state.

45 (b) The council shall recommend to the Secretary of State
 46 at least three nominees for appointment as the State Poet
 47 Laureate, each of whom must be:

48 1. A permanent resident of the state;

49 2. A public literary poet who has significant standing
 50 inside and outside of the state; and

51 3. Willing and physically able to perform the duties of
 52 the State Poet Laureate as prescribed by the department, which
 53 may include, but are not limited to, engaging in outreach and
 54 mentoring for the benefit of schools and communities throughout
 55 the state and performing readings of his or her own poetry, as

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56 requested.

57 (c) The Secretary of State shall, from among the nominees
58 recommended by the council, submit at least two nominees to the
59 Governor. The Governor shall, from among the nominees submitted
60 by the Secretary of State, appoint the State Poet Laureate.

61 (3) The State Poet Laureate shall serve a term of 4 years,
62 such term to run concurrently with the term of the appointing
63 Governor, and until his or her successor is appointed. A vacancy
64 shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the
65 same manner as the original appointment.

66 (4) Each of the state's poets laureate appointed before
67 the effective date of this section and each State Poet Laureate
68 appointed under this section, upon the appointment of his or her
69 successor, shall be designated a State Poet Laureate Emeritus in
70 recognition of his or her service to the state.

71 (5) The State Poet Laureate and each State Poet Laureate
72 Emeritus shall serve without compensation.

73 (6) The department may adopt rules to administer this
74 section.

75 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012.