

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; establishing  
9           procedures for the acceptance of nominations, the  
10          qualifications and recommendation of nominees, and the  
11          appointment of the State Poet Laureate; providing  
12          terms and the process for filling vacancies;  
13          specifying that any former poet laureate becomes a  
14          State Poet Laureate Emeritus or State Poet Laureate  
15          Emerita; providing that the State Poet Laureate, the  
16          State Poet Laureate Emeritus, and the State Poet  
17          Laureate Emerita shall serve without compensation;  
18          authorizing the department to adopt rules; 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. Present paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of  
24           section 265.285, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph  
25           (h), and a new paragraph (g) is added to that subsection, to  
26           read:

27           265.285 Florida Council on Arts and Culture; membership,  
28           duties.—

29 (2) The council shall:

30 (g) Promote the reading, writing, and appreciation of  
 31 poetry throughout the state and accept nominations and recommend  
 32 nominees for appointment as the State Poet Laureate under s.  
 33 265.2863.

34 Section 2. Section 265.2863, Florida Statutes, is created  
 35 to read:

36 265.2863 State Poet Laureate.—

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

39 (2) (a) The Florida Council on Arts and Culture, in  
 40 accordance with procedures adopted by the department, shall  
 41 accept nominations for appointment as the State Poet Laureate.  
 42 The council shall solicit nominations from a broad array of  
 43 literary sources and members of the public.

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

47 1. A permanent resident of the state;

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

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

56 (c) The Secretary of State shall, from among the nominees

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57 recommended by the council, submit three nominees to the  
58 Governor, who shall appoint one nominee as the State Poet  
59 Laureate.

60 (3) The State Poet Laureate shall serve a term of 4 years.  
61 A vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired  
62 term in the same manner as the original appointment.

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

69 (5) The State Poet Laureate and each State Poet Laureate  
70 Emeritus or State Poet Laureate Emerita shall serve without  
71 compensation.

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

74 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.