

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3247**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Sarah K. Peake***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the position of poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>	<i>1/11/2023</i>
<i>Rebecca L. Rausch</i>	<i>Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex</i>	<i>1/24/2023</i>
<i>Dylan A. Fernandes</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>	<i>1/27/2023</i>

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By Representative Peake of Provincetown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3247) of Sarah K. Peake, Rebecca L. Rausch and Dylan A. Fernandes for legislation to create the position of poet laureate of the Commonwealth. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3383 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to the position of poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2016 official edition, is  
2 hereby amended by inserting after Section 38, the following section:-

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4           Section 38A. (a) Biennially, on or before March 31, the governor may appoint a poet  
5 laureate for the commonwealth of Massachusetts from a list of nominees submitted by the poet  
6 laureate nominating committee pursuant to subsection (b). The poet laureate shall seek to raise  
7 the consciousness of all commonwealth residents, especially school children, to a greater  
8 appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry. The poet laureate shall be appointed to serve  
9 for a term of 2 years or until a successor is appointed and qualified as provided in this section. In

10 the event of a vacancy in the office of poet laureate, the vacancy shall be filled in the same  
11 manner as the original appointment.

12 (b) There shall be a poet laureate nominating committee consisting of the following 5  
13 members: the speaker of the house of representatives, or a designee; the senate president, or a  
14 designee; and 3 members appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be members of the board  
15 of directors of the Massachusetts cultural council. Members of the poet laureate nominating  
16 committee shall serve without compensation.

17 (c) The poet laureate nominating committee shall advertise and receive nominations for  
18 the selection of the poet laureate for the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Nominees shall be  
19 residents of the commonwealth and shall provide biographical and professional information, as  
20 well as supporting representative material, explaining why, based on their poetic  
21 accomplishments, they deserve recognition as the poet laureate for commonwealth of  
22 Massachusetts. The poet laureate nominating committee shall review all nominations and select  
23 3 nominees to submit to the governor biennially on or before February 1.

24 (d) The poet laureate shall be an honorary position and the person appointed shall receive  
25 no remuneration. The person appointed to the position of poet laureate shall not be considered a  
26 state official or a state employee for such person's service in the position of poet laureate.