

---

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8404**

---

**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1997 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Jacobsen, Fraser and Kohl

Read first time 02/11/97. Referred to Committee on Government Operations.

1 WHEREAS, The legislature wishes to recognize the value of poetry  
2 and the contribution Washington poets make to the culture of our state;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Seattle is known as the poetry-slam capital of North  
5 America; and

6 WHEREAS, Some of the greatest American poets are residents of  
7 Washington;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of  
9 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That the governor  
10 appoint a Washington poet to serve as the poet laureate of the state of  
11 Washington. The duties of the poet laureate shall be to write poetry  
12 and lofty expressions to be read at appropriate state occasions. The  
13 term of the poet laureate shall be two years.

14 Before making an appointment under this section, the governor shall  
15 confer with a committee consisting of one member appointed by the  
16 speaker of the house of representatives, one member appointed by the  
17 president of the senate, and one member appointed by the governor. The  
18 committee shall recommend to the governor one or more candidates for  
19 poet laureate after seeking and considering nominations from poets and  
20 writers, poetry critics, professors of English, magazine and literary  
21 review editors, state and local arts commission members, and any other

1 persons the committee determines to have exhibited an exceptional  
2 knowledge of poetry; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the salary of the poet laureate shall  
4 consist of one butt of Washington wine per year donated by  
5 representatives of the Washington wine industry. For the purposes of  
6 RCW 66.28.040, the poet laureate shall qualify as a board  
7 representative.

--- END ---