
HOUSE BILL 1279

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Skinner, Kessler, Lantz, Hasegawa, Dickerson,
Haler, McIntire, Conway, Newhouse and Kenney

Read first time 01/16/2007. Referred to Committee on State
Government & Tribal Affairs.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state poet laureate; adding new sections to
2 chapter 43.46 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature wishes to recognize: (1)
5 The value of poetry and the contribution Washington poets make to the
6 culture of our state; (2) that poetry is a literary form respected and
7 growing throughout all segments of Washington's population; (3) that
8 awareness and appreciation of poetry encourages increased literacy and
9 advanced communication skills; and (4) that Washington state has
10 produced many excellent and nationally recognized poets.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.46 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) The Washington state arts commission shall establish and
14 administer the poet laureate program. The poet laureate shall engage
15 in activities to promote and encourage poetry within the state,
16 including but not limited to readings, workshops, lectures, or
17 presentations for Washington educational institutions and communities
18 in geographically diverse areas over a two-year term.

1 (2) Selection of a poet laureate shall be made by a committee
2 appointed and coordinated by the commission. The committee may include
3 representatives of the Washington state library, the education
4 community, the Washington commission for the humanities, publishing,
5 and the community of Washington poets.

6 (3) The commission and the committee shall establish criteria to be
7 used for the selection of a poet laureate. In addition to other
8 criteria established, the poet laureate must be a published poet, a
9 resident of Washington state, active in the poetry community, and
10 willing and able to promote poetry in the state of Washington
11 throughout the two-year term.

12 (4) The recommendation of the poet laureate selection committee
13 shall be forwarded to the commission, which shall appoint the poet
14 laureate.

15 (5) The poet laureate shall receive compensation at a level
16 determined by the commission. Travel expenses shall be provided in
17 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

18 (6) The poet laureate may not serve more than two consecutive
19 two-year terms.

20 (7) The commission shall fund the poet laureate program through
21 gifts, grants, or endowments from public or private sources that are
22 made from time to time, in trust or otherwise.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.46 RCW
24 to read as follows:

25 The poet laureate account is created in the custody of the state
26 treasurer with an allocation of thirty thousand dollars. Expenditures
27 from the account may be used only for these purposes. Only the
28 executive director of the commission or the executive director's
29 designee may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is
30 subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an
31 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

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