

HOUSE No.

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 passage of the accompanying bill:

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Sarah K. Peake	4th Barnstable

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO CREATE 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 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by
2 adding, after section 5, the following new section:
3

4 Section 5A.

5 (a) The governor may select a poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the list of nominees
6 submitted to him or her by the Commonwealth Poet Laureate Nominating Committee pursuant to Section 5A (b)
7 herein. The poet laureate shall be appointed to serve for a term of two years or until a successor is appointed and
8 qualified as provided in this section.
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10 (b) (1) There shall be a Poet Laureate Nominating Committee. The Poet Laureate Nominating Committee shall
11 consist of five (5) members: one (1) member of the Senate, one (1) member of the House, one (1) member appointed
12 by the Governor, and two (2) members of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Poet
13 Laureate Nominating Committee shall serve without compensation.
14

15 (2)The Poet Laureate Nominating Committee shall advertise for and receive nominations for the selection of the
16 Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Poet Laureate Nominating Committee shall review all
17 nominations and select a list of three (3) nominees who are residents of the Commonwealth, to submit to the
18 Governor along with their biographical and professional information and supporting representative material and
19 who, based on their poetic accomplishments, deserve recognition as the Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth. The
20 Governor may select the Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth from the list of nominees for a two year term of
21 office.
22

23 (c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth, the vacancy shall be filled in the
24 same manner as the original appointment, and the person so appointed shall serve until a successor is appointed and
25 qualified as provided in this section.
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27 (d) The Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth during his or her term shall seek to raise the consciousness of all
28 people, including, but not limited to school children to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry,
29 and
30

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

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