



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Hannah K. Wann

Am. S.B. 84

130th General Assembly
(As Passed by the Senate)

Sens. Kearney, Smith, Turner, Obhof, LaRose, Beagle, Brown, Burke, Cafaro, Eklund, Gentile, Hite, Lehner, Oelslager, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Tavares

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the position of Ohio Poet Laureate, to be administered by the Ohio Arts Council (OAC).

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Ohio Poet Laureate

Creation of position

The bill creates the position of Ohio Poet Laureate, to be administered by the Ohio Arts Council. The Council must establish guidelines for the nomination of and for the administration of its duties that pertain to the position of Ohio Poet Laureate.

The duties of the Ohio Poet Laureate must consist of the following:

- (1) Provide a minimum of four annual public readings in both rural and urban counties;
- (2) Provide to the public access to at least one reading during each term of office;
- (3) In coordination with the OAC, establish programs to promote awareness of the literary arts and encourage citizens to develop their own creative interests.¹

¹ R.C. 3379.03(F) and 3379.12(A) and (B).

Term of office and nomination

Under the bill, the term of office for the Ohio Poet Laureate must be four years. An individual can be reappointed to subsequent terms of office. Not later than 90 days after the bill's effective date and every four years thereafter, an organization or individual that wishes to nominate an individual for the position of Ohio Poet Laureate must submit a nomination to the Art Council. The bill prohibits an individual from self-nominating for the position. Also, not later than 120 days after the bill's effective date and every four years thereafter, the Governor must select the Ohio Poet Laureate from the list of nominees provided.

If the Ohio Poet Laureate dies, resigns, or has any other vacancy or inability to perform the duties of the position during the individual's unexpired term of office, the OAC must request nominations to fill the position. Within 90 days of issuing the request, the Governor must select from the list the Ohio Poet Laureate to serve the remainder of that unexpired term of office.²

Qualifications

To qualify for the position of Ohio Poet Laureate, an individual must satisfy the following conditions:

- (1) Be a current Ohio resident, with at least ten concurrent years of residency;
- (2) Have the ability to travel throughout Ohio;
- (3) Have a proven history in poetry that includes works published in books, anthologies, literary journals, or magazines, including at least one work that is not self-published or by a vanity press;
- (4) Demonstrate an active presence in Ohio's literary community through such areas as reading, publications, public presentations, or teaching; and
- (5) Demonstrate critical acclaim through special honors, awards, or other recognition.³

² R.C. 3379.12(C) and (E).

³ R.C. 3379.12(D).



HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-14-13
Reported, S. State Gov't Oversight & Reform	06-03-14
Passed Senate (31-0)	06-04-14

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