

HOUSE No. 4533

By Ms. Gobi of Spencer, petition of Anne M. Gobi for legislation to provide for the appointment of a poet laureate of the Commonwealth. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Eight.

AN ACT TO CREATE THE POSITION OF POET LAUREATE OF 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. Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or
2 special law, there is created the position of Poet Laureate of the
3 Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1 SECTION 2. The Poet Laureate shall be appointed by the
2 Governor from a list of three nominees submitted to him by the
3 Massachusetts Cultural Council. Said nominee must be Massachu-
4 setts born or domiciled in Massachusetts at the time of nomination.

1 SECTION 3. The Council shall submit the list of three nominees
2 to the Governor by February 1st. The Governor shall appoint the
3 Poet Laureate within 30 days after receiving the list of nominees.
4 The Poet Laureate shall be appointed to serve for a term of two years
5 or until a successor is appointed and qualified as provided in this
6 section.

1 SECTION 4. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Poet Lau-
2 reate, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original
3 appointment, and the person so appointed shall serve until a suc-
4 cessor is appointed and qualified as provided in this section.

1 SECTION 5. The Poet Laureate shall act as a public emissary and
2 advocate for poetry in the state.

1 SECTION 6. The Poet shall be an honorary position and the
2 person appointed shall receive no remuneration.