

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 754

S.P. 259

In Senate, January 28, 1999

An Act to Amend the Laws Establishing a State Poet Laureate.

Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Senator BERUBE of Androscoggin, Representative: PINKHAM of Lamoine.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2
3 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§5-A**, as enacted by PL 1995, c.
4 264, §1, is amended to read:

6 **5-A.** State Poet Not 27 MRSA
7 Culture Laureate Authorized §421
8 Advisory
9 Selection
10 Advisory
11 Panel
12 Committee

14 **Sec. 2. 27 MRSA §421**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 264, §3, is
15 repealed and the following enacted in its place:

16 **§421. Honorary office created**

18 **1. Appointment.** During Maine Cultural Heritage Week as
19 established in Title 1, section 118, the Governor shall appoint a
20 poet to serve as State Poet Laureate, nominated by an advisory
21 selection committee created in subsection 3-A.

22 **2. Term.** The State Poet Laureate is appointed for a 5-year
23 term and may be reappointed for a 2nd term. An individual may
24 serve as State Poet Laureate for no more than 2 consecutive
25 terms, but may be reappointed after a break in service.

26 **3-A. Advisory selection committee.** The State Poet Laureate
27 Advisory Selection Committee as established in Title 5, section
28 12004-I, subsection 5-A, referred to in this subchapter as the
29 "advisory selection committee," is created in accordance with the
30 following provisions.

31 **A.** The Maine Arts Commission shall assemble an advisory
32 selection committee of no more than 5 members with expertise
33 in poetry. The Director of the Maine Arts Commission and
34 the director of the Maine State Library or their delegates
35 shall cochair this advisory selection committee.

36 **B.** Five months prior to the expiration of the State Poet
37 Laureate's tenure, the advisory selection committee shall
38 advertise in the appropriate media for nominations of
39 potential candidates. By March 1st of the year in which the
40 term of a poet laureate is due to end, the advisory
41 selection committee shall recommend one name to the Governor
42 for appointment as the State Poet Laureate.

43 **C.** If a vacancy occurs within the term of the State Poet
44 Laureate, the advisory selection committee shall select as
45

