

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 84

H.P. 93

House of Representatives, January 21, 2003

An Act To Reimburse the State Poet Laureate and To Provide Access to the State Poet Laureate's Services

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative COWGER of Hallowell.
Cosponsored by Senator TREAT of Kennebec and
Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, ANNIS of Dover-Foxcroft, CUMMINGS of Portland,
McKEE of Wayne, O'BRIEN of Augusta, PINGREE of North Haven.

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

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4 **Sec. 1. 27 MRSA §424** is enacted to read:

6 **§424. State Poet Laureate Reimbursement Fund**

8 **1. Fund established.** The State Poet Laureate Reimbursement Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the Maine Arts Commission. The fund consists of money appropriated by the Legislature from the General Fund. The fund must be held separate from all other money, funds and accounts. Any unexpended funds remaining at the end of each fiscal year must be returned to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.

16 **2. Fund purpose.** The purpose of the fund is to provide funds to nonprofit public agencies in Maine to reimburse the State Poet Laureate for the cost of travel and related expenses associated with bringing the services of the State Poet Laureate to the community. The Maine Arts Commission shall administer the fund and develop guidelines and procedures to make the services of the State Poet Laureate available to any nonprofit public agency in the State.

24 **3. Application process.** The Maine Arts Commission shall establish an application process for fund requests for the purposes set forth in this section.

28 **4. Promotion.** The Maine Arts Commission shall promote the availability of the fund through its various avenues of communication, including its publicly accessible site on the Internet.

34 **Sec. 2. Review.** The Maine Arts Commission shall conduct a review of the process associated with a nonprofit public agency's applying for and obtaining funds from the State Poet Laureate Reimbursement Fund, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 27, section 424, after the process has been in place for 3 years and make any necessary adjustments by September 30, 2006. The commission may submit to the Legislature any legislation necessary to implement recommendations resulting from the review.

42 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following
44 appropriations and allocations are made.

46 **MAINE ARTS COMMISSION**

48 **State Poet Laureate Reimbursement Fund**

2 Initiative: Provides funds for nonprofit public agencies in
Maine to reimburse the State Poet Laureate for the cost of
4 travel and related expenses associated with bringing the
services of the poet laureate to the community.

6	General Fund	2003-04	2004-05
	All Other	\$5,000	\$5,000

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SUMMARY

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14 This bill establishes the State Poet Laureate Reimbursement
Fund within the Maine Arts Commission and requires the commission
16 to administer the fund, which provides funds to nonprofit public
agencies in Maine to reimburse the State Poet Laureate for the
18 cost of travel and related expenses associated with bringing the
services of the State Poet Laureate to the community. This bill
20 also requires the commission to conduct a review of the process
of applying for and obtaining funds once the process has been in
22 place for 3 years and implement any necessary adjustments by
September 30, 2006. The bill also requires the Maine Arts
24 Commission to promote the State Poet Laureate Reimbursement Fund
through its various avenues of communication, including its
publicly accessible site on the Internet.