HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 2539 FILED ON: 1/20/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2627

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Anne M. Gobi and 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:

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

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
Sarah K. Peake	*4th Barnstable*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Jason M. Lewis	*31st Middlesex*
Todd M. Smola	*1st Hampden*
Ellen Story	*3rd Hampshire*
James B. Eldridge	☐ *[District]* ☐
Christine E. Canavan	*10th Plymouth*

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By Representatives Gobi of Spencer and Peake of Provincetown, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2627) of Anne M. Gobi, Sarah K. Peake and others for legislation to provide for the appointment of a poet laureate of the Commonwealth. Tourism, Arts and Cutural Development.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *3146* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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:

SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding, after section 5, the following new section:

Section 5A.

(a) The governor may select a poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from the list of nominees submitted to him or her by the Commonwealth Poet Laureate Nominating Committee pursuant to Section 5A (b) herein. The poet laureate shall be appointed to serve for a term of two years or until a successor is appointed and qualified as provided in this section.

(b) (1) There shall be a Poet Laureate Nominating Committee. The Poet Laureate Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members: one (1) member of the Senate, one (1) member of the House, one (1) member appointed by the Governor, and two (2) members of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Poet Laureate Nominating Committee shall serve without compensation.

(2)The Poet Laureate Nominating Committee shall advertise for and receive nominations for the selection of the Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Poet Laureate Nominating Committee shall review all nominations and select a list of three (3)

17 nominees who are residents of the Commonwealth, to submit to the Governor along with their
18 biographical and professional information and supporting representative material and who, based
19 on their poetic accomplishments, deserve recognition as the Poet Laureate for the
20 Commonwealth. The Governor may select the Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth from the
21 list of nominees for a two year term of office.

22 (c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth, the
23 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, and the person so
24 appointed shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualified as provided in this section.

25 (d) The Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth during his or her term shall seek to raise
26 the consciousness of all people, including, but not limited to school children to a greater
27 appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry, and

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