HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1394 FILED ON: 1/16/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2999

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sarah K. Peake and Denise Provost

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:
Sarah K. Peake	*4th Barnstable*
Denise Provost	*27th Middlesex*
Jason M. Lewis	*31st Middlesex*
Cleon H. Turner	*1st Barnstable*
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
Paul A. Schmid, III	*8th Bristol*
Paul McMurtry	*11th Norfolk*
Ellen Story	*3rd Hampshire*
Cory Atkins	*14th Middlesex*
Timothy R. Madden	*Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket*
Martha M. Walz	*8th Suffolk*
Christine E. Canavan	*10th Plymouth*
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	*5th Essex*
Frank I. Smizik	*15th Norfolk*
Daniel B. Winslow	*9th Norfolk*
Kay Khan	*11th Middlesex*
Brian R. Mannal	*2nd Barnstable*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 1394 FILED ON: 1/16/2013

HOUSE . . . . . No. 2999

By Representatives Peake of Provincetown and Provost of Somerville, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2999) of Sarah K. Peake and others for legislation to create the position of poet laureate of the Commonwealth. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE
HOUSE
, NO. *4543* OF 2011-2012.]

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 is hereby amended by inserting after Section 38, the following section:-

Section 38A. (a) Biennially, on or before March 31, the governor may appoint a poet laureate for the commonwealth of Massachusetts from a list of nominees submitted by the poet laureate nominating committee pursuant to subsection (b). The poet laureate shall seek to raise the consciousness of all commonwealth residents, especially school children, to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry. The poet laureate shall be appointed to serve for a term of 2 years or until a successor is appointed and qualified as provided in this section. In the event of a vacancy in the office of poet laureate, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(b) There shall be a poet laureate nominating committee consisting of the following 5 members: the speaker of the house of representatives, or a designee; the senate president, or a designee; and 3 members appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be members of the board of directors of the Massachusetts cultural council. Members of the poet laureate nominating committee shall serve without compensation.

17 (c) The poet laureate nominating committee shall advertise and receive nominations for
18 the selection of the poet laureate for the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Nominees shall be
19 residents of the commonwealth and shall provide biographical and professional information, as
20 well as supporting representative material, explaining why, based on their poetic
21 accomplishments, they deserve recognition as the poet laureate for commonwealth of
22 Massachusetts. The poet laureate nominating committee shall review all nominations and select
23 3 nominees to submit to the governor biennially on or before February 1.

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