



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

Amber Hardesty

### **S.B. 84**

130th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Sens.** Kearney, Smith, Turner, Obhof

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

- Creates the position of Ohio Poet Laureate, to be administered by the Ohio Arts Council (OAC).
- Specifies the duties and qualifications of the Ohio Poet Laureate.
- Establishes a four-year term of office for the Ohio Poet Laureate.
- Permits an organization or individual to submit a nomination of an individual for the position of Ohio Poet Laureate to the OAC.
- Requires the Governor to select the Ohio Poet Laureate from the list of nominees.

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## **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

### **Ohio Poet Laureate**

#### **Creation of position**

The bill creates the position of Ohio Poet Laureate, to be administered by the Ohio Arts Council (OAC). The OAC must establish guidelines for the nomination of and for the administration of its duties that pertain to the position of Ohio Poet Laureate.

The duties of the Ohio Poet Laureate must consist of the following:

- (1) Provide a minimum of four annual public readings;
- (2) Provide to the public access to at least one reading during each term of office;

(3) In coordination with the OAC, establish programs to promote awareness of the literary arts and encourage citizens to develop their own creative interests.<sup>1</sup>

### **Term of office and nomination**

Under the bill, the term of office for the Ohio Poet Laureate must be four years. An individual can be reappointed to subsequent terms of office. Not later than December 31, 2013, and by December 31st every four years thereafter, an organization or individual that wishes to nominate an individual for the position of Ohio Poet Laureate must submit a nomination to the OAC. The bill prohibits an individual from self-nominating for the position. Also, not later than July 1, 2014, and by July 31st every four years thereafter, the Governor must select the Ohio Poet Laureate from the list of nominees provided.

If the Ohio Poet Laureate dies, resigns, or has any other vacancy or inability to perform the duties of the position during the individual's unexpired term of office, the OAC must request nominations to fill the position. Within 90 days of issuing the request, the Governor must select from the list the Ohio Poet Laureate to serve the remainder of that unexpired term of office.<sup>2</sup>

### **Qualifications**

To qualify for the position of Ohio Poet Laureate, an individual must satisfy the following conditions:

- (1) Be a current Ohio resident, with at least ten concurrent years of residency;
- (2) Have the ability to travel throughout Ohio;

(3) Have a proven history in poetry that includes works published in books, anthologies, literary journals, or magazines, including at least one work that is not self-published or by a vanity press;

(4) Demonstrate an active presence in Ohio's literary community through such areas as reading, publications, public presentations, or teaching;

(5) Demonstrate critical acclaim through special honors, awards, or other recognition.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3379.03(F) and 3379.12(A) and (B).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3379.12(C) and (E).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3379.12(D).



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## HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

03-14-13

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