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Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

# SENATE BILL NO. 2338

Introduced by

Senators Krebsbach, Burckhard, Piepkorn, Vedaa

Representatives Nelson, Roers Jones

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 54-54 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the state poet laureate.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 54-54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

**Poet laureate - Nominating board - Appointment - Term.**

1. By ~~June~~April first of each odd-numbered year, the nominating board shall ~~select one individual to serve as the poet laureate for the following biennium~~recommend three individuals as finalists.
2. The nominating board consists of:
   a. One member of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of the house of representatives;
   b. One member of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate;
   c. One member of the governor's staff appointed by the governor;
   d. One member of the North Dakota council on the arts, appointed by the chairman of the North Dakota council on the arts; and
   e. One representative from the department of commerce appointed by the director of the department of commerce.
3. ~~By April first of each odd-numbered year, the nominating board shall recommend three individuals as finalists.~~
~~4.~~ By May first of each odd-numbered year, each finalist shall submit an application to the nominating board. The application must include:
   a. A resume;
   b. Five writing samples, one of which must be a recorded presentation; ~~and~~

c. Three letters of recommendation; and

d. Proof of North Dakota residency.

4. By June first of each odd-numbered year, the nominating board shall select one individual to serve as the poet laureate for a two-year term beginning July first.

5. The poet laureate shall participate in at least four public events around the state each year. The North Dakota council on the arts shall provide up to five thousand dollars in reimbursement to the poet laureate each year for events completed~~, including expenses of up to~~. Reimbursement may not exceed one thousand two hundred fifty dollars for each event up to the yearly maximum.

6. The North Dakota council on the arts shall process payments through the council's online grants system. To receive payment, the poet laureate shall register in the council's online grants system and send an electronic mail to the council requesting payment. The electronic mail must include:

a. The date and time of the presentation;

b. The location of the presentation;

c. The number of adults and numbers of youth attending the presentation; and

d. If available, a copy of the event program.

7. The poet laureate may not name an individual to serve as an associate poet laureate or as a substitute poet laureate.

8. If a poet laureate is unable to fulfill the two-year term, the nominating committee shall select an individual to serve the remainder of the term.