

Introduced by

Senators Krebsbach, Burckhard, Piepkorn, Vedaa

Representatives Nelson, Roers Jones

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

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

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

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

- 7 1. By April first of each odd-numbered year, the nominating board shall recommend three  
8 individuals as finalists.
- 9 2. The nominating board consists of:
- 10 a. One member of the house of representatives appointed by the majority leader of  
11 the house of representatives;
- 12 b. One member of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate;
- 13 c. One member of the governor's staff appointed by the governor;
- 14 d. One member of the North Dakota council on the arts, appointed by the chairman  
15 of the North Dakota council on the arts; and
- 16 e. One representative from the department of commerce appointed by the director  
17 of the department of commerce.
- 18 3. By May first of each odd-numbered year, each finalist shall submit an application to  
19 the nominating board. The application must include:
- 20 a. A resume;
- 21 b. Five writing samples, one of which must be a recorded presentation;
- 22 c. Three letters of recommendation; and
- 23 d. Proof of North Dakota residency.

- 1       4. By June first of each odd-numbered year, the nominating board shall select one
- 2           individual to serve as the poet laureate for a two-year term beginning July first.
- 3       5. The poet laureate shall participate in at least four public events around the state each
- 4           year. The North Dakota council on the arts shall provide up to five thousand dollars in
- 5           reimbursement to the poet laureate each year for events completed. Reimbursement
- 6           may not exceed one thousand two hundred fifty dollars for each event up to the yearly
- 7           maximum.
- 8       6. The North Dakota council on the arts shall process payments through the council's
- 9           online grants system. To receive payment, the poet laureate shall register in the
- 10          council's online grants system and send an electronic mail to the council requesting
- 11          payment. The electronic mail must include:
- 12           a. The date and time of the presentation;
- 13           b. The location of the presentation;
- 14           c. The number of adults and numbers of youth attending the presentation; and
- 15           d. If available, a copy of the event program.
- 16       7. The poet laureate may not name an individual to serve as an associate poet laureate
- 17           or as a substitute poet laureate.
- 18       8. If a poet laureate is unable to fulfill the two-year term, the nominating committee shall
- 19           select an individual to serve the remainder of the term.