

SENATE BILL NO. 69

INTRODUCED BY J. COBB, KITZENBERG, TESTER, ELLIOTT

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE HONORARY POSITION OF STATE POET LAUREATE; PROVIDING FOR THE NOMINATION, APPOINTMENT, AND TERM OF THE STATE POET LAUREATE; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AMENDING SECTION 22-2-106, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. State poet laureate. (1) There is a state poet laureate.

(2) Within 30 days prior to the expiration of the state poet laureate's term of appointment or within 30 days after a vacancy in the position occurs, the Montana arts council established in 22-2-101 shall nominate three individuals to be the state poet laureate. The Montana arts council shall provide the list of nominees to the governor who shall:

(a) within 30 days after receiving the list of nominees, appoint the state poet laureate from among the individuals named on the list; and

(b) notify the secretary of state and the Montana arts council of the appointment.

(3) The individual named by the governor as the state poet laureate shall serve for a term of 2 years beginning on the date of appointment by the governor.

(4) The state poet laureate is an honorary position, and the person serving as the state poet laureate may not receive any compensation from the state for serving as the state poet laureate.

Section 2. Section 22-2-106, MCA, is amended to read:

"22-2-106. Council duties. The ~~duties of the council shall be to:~~

(1) encourage throughout the state the study and presentation of the arts and stimulate public interest and participation ~~therein~~ in the arts;

(2) cooperate with public and private institutions engaged within the state in artistic and cultural activities, including but not limited to music, theater, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, and allied arts and crafts, and make recommendations concerning appropriate methods to encourage participation in and

1 appreciation of the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons in all parts of the state;
2 (3) foster public interest in the cultural heritage of our state and expand the state's cultural resources;
3 (4) encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression essential for the well-being of the arts;
4 (5) as required under [section 1], nominate three individuals to serve as the state poet laureate and
5 provide the list of nominees to the governor."
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7 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Implementation.** The Montana arts council shall provide to the governor
8 before July 1, 2005, a list of three nominees for the position of state poet laureate provided for in [section 1].
9 The governor shall appoint a state poet laureate within 30 days following receipt of the list of appointees.
10 Subsequent nominations and appointments as state poet laureate must be made as provided in [section 1].
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12 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an
13 integral part of Title 2, chapter 15, and the provisions of Title 2, chapter 15, apply to [section 1].
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15 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.
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