

SENATE No.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Rebecca L. Rausch

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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a choreographer laureate of the commonwealth.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

Rebecca L. Rausch

Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex

Leigh Davis

3rd Berkshire

SENATE No.

[Pin Slip]

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE SENATE, NO. 2196 OF 2023-2024.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)**

An Act establishing a choreographer laureate of the commonwealth.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 2 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby
2 amended by inserting the following new section:-

3 Section 64. (a) The governor may appoint a resident of the commonwealth to serve as
4 choreographer laureate of the commonwealth, selected from a list of nominees submitted by the
5 choreographer laureate nominating committee established in this section. The choreographer
6 laureate shall seek to encourage participation in the arts, elevate the dance legacy and current
7 dance communities in the commonwealth, and choreograph performances for important state
8 events and ceremonies. The choreographer laureate shall be appointed to serve for a term of 4
9 years and may be reappointed for a second term. A choreographer laureate vacancy shall be
10 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

11 (b) (i) There shall be a choreographer laureate nominating committee consisting of the
12 following 5 members: the executive director of the Massachusetts cultural council, or their
13 designee, who shall serve as chair; the executive and artistic director of Jacob’s Pillow Dance
14 Festival, Inc., or their designee; the executive artistic director of The Dance Complex, or their
15 designee; the executive director of The Yard, or their designee; and a member of the Boston
16 Ballet company, selected by the chair. Nominating committee members shall serve without
17 compensation.

18 (ii) Not less than 5 months prior to the expiration of the then-current choreographer
19 laureate’s tenure, the nominating committee shall conduct culturally competent and linguistically
20 diverse public outreach and receive nominations of potential candidates for selection as
21 choreographer laureate. Self-nominations and nominations from members of the nominating
22 committee shall be permitted. Nominees shall be residents of the commonwealth who are
23 presently or were previously engaged in the art of choreography and who has produced a body of
24 choreographic work. Nominations shall include biographical and professional information about
25 the nominee.

26 (iii) The nominating committee shall review all nominations and select 3 nominees based
27 on their overall excellence and demonstrated commitment to the arts in the commonwealth.
28 Nominees should represent the commonwealth’s diverse dance community. The nominating
29 committee shall submit the 3 nominees to the governor not less than 4 weeks prior to the
30 expiration of the then-current choreographer laureate’s tenure, or as soon as possible in the event
31 of a vacancy.

32 (c) (i) The choreographer laureate shall be an honorary position and the person appointed
33 shall receive no remuneration from the commonwealth. The person appointed to the position of
34 choreographer laureate shall not be considered a state official or a state employee for such
35 person's service in the position.

36 (ii) The choreographer laureate shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred
37 in the performance of duties as choreographer laureate, not exceeding \$1,000 per fiscal year of
38 the commonwealth.

39 (iii) Dancers and support staff selected by the choreographer laureate for performances at
40 important state events and ceremonies, consistent with the provisions of paragraph (a) of this
41 section, shall be entitled to market value compensation.