HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 951 FILED ON: 1/19/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 891

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Sarah K. Peake and Anne M. Gobi

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 to create the position of poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Sarah K. Peake	*4th Barnstable*
Anne M. Gobi	*5th Worcester*
John D. Keenan	*7th Essex*
Jason M. Lewis	*31st Middlesex*
Tom Sannicandro	*7th Middlesex*
Cleon H. Turner	*1st Barnstable*
Timothy R. Madden	*Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket*
Cory Atkins	*14th Middlesex*
Christine E. Canavan	*10th Plymouth*
James B. Eldridge	
Ann-Margaret Ferrante	*5th Essex*
George T. Ross	*2nd Bristol*
Ellen Story	*3rd Hampshire*
Chris Walsh	*6th Middlesex*

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By Representatives Peake of Provincetown and Gobi of Spencer, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 891) of Sarah K. Peake, Anne M. Gobi and others providing for the appointment of a poet laureate of the Commonwealth. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *3146* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act to create the position of poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2006 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding, after section 5, the following new section:
3
4 Section 5A.
5 (a) The governor may select a poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
6 from the list of nominees submitted to him or her by the Commonwealth Poet Laureate
7 Nominating Committee pursuant to Section 5A (b) herein. The nominating committee shall
8 submit the list of three nominees to the Governor by February 1st. The Governor shall appoint
9 the Poet Laureate within 30 days after receiving the list of nominees. The poet laureate shall be

10 appointed to serve for a term of two years or until a successor is appointed and qualified as
11 provided in this section.

12

13 (b) (1) There shall be a Poet Laureate Nominating Committee. The Poet Laureate
14 Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) members: one (1) member of the Senate, one (1)
15 member of the House, one (1) member appointed by the Governor, and two (2) members of the
16 Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Poet Laureate Nominating Committee
17 shall serve without compensation.

18

19 (2) The Poet Laureate Nominating Committee shall advertise for and receive nominations
20 for the selection of the Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Poet
21 Laureate Nominating Committee shall review all nominations and select a list of three (3)
22 nominees who are residents of the Commonwealth, to submit to the Governor along with their
23 biographical and professional information and supporting representative material and who, based
24 on their poetic accomplishments, deserve recognition as the Poet Laureate for the
25 Commonwealth. The Governor may select the Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth from the
26 list of nominees for a two year term of office.

27

28 (c) In the event of a vacancy in the office of Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth, the
29 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, and the person so
30 appointed shall serve until a successor is appointed and qualified as provided in this section.

31

32 (d) The Poet Laureate for the Commonwealth during his or her term shall seek to raise
33 the consciousness of all people, including, but not limited to school children to a greater
34 appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry, and

35

36 (e) The poet laureate shall be an honorary position and the person appointed shall receive
37 no remuneration. The person appointed to the position of poet laureate shall not be considered a
38 state official or a state employee for such person's service in the position of poet laureate.