

HB 716 -- State Poet Laureate

Sponsor: Behnen

This bill creates the post of Poet Laureate of the State of Missouri. The poet laureate will be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Poet Laureate Nominating Committee, which the bill establishes. The poet laureate must be a resident of the state, will serve for a term of two years, and may be reappointed. The poet laureate will not receive compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel expenses and will be permitted to receive compensation from a variety of organizations.

The Governor may request the poet laureate to compose or perform for important state occasions or ceremonies and to be available for official engagements such as readings and lectures to civic, cultural, and educational institutions throughout the state.