

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2714

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RICHARD H. BAGGER**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman LEONARD LANCE**

**District 23 (Warren, Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides for the award every two years of the New Jersey State William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit for a distinguished New Jersey poet and appropriates \$10,000.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey State William Carlos Williams  
2 Citation of Merit for distinguished New Jersey poets,  
3 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes and making an  
4 appropriation.

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6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

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9 1. a. The Governor shall biennially present the New Jersey State  
10 William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit to a distinguished New  
11 Jersey poet upon the recommendation of the panel convened pursuant  
12 to subsection b. of this section. The poet selected shall be considered  
13 the poet laureate of the State and the citation shall carry an  
14 honorarium of \$10,000.

15 b. The New Jersey Council for the Humanities shall biennially  
16 appoint and convene an advisory panel of persons from New Jersey  
17 who are distinguished poets and who have particular expertise in the  
18 field of poetry. The council shall appoint, to the extent possible, a  
19 panel that represents a range of stylistic approaches in the field of  
20 poetry. Each current poet laureate shall serve as a member of the  
21 panel in choosing the next poet laureate. The panel shall recommend  
22 to the Governor a poet whose achievements make that person  
23 deserving of the recognition.

24 c. The poet laureate of the State shall promote and encourage  
25 poetry within the State and shall give two public readings within the  
26 State each year.

27 d. The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules pursuant to the  
28 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.)  
29 to effectuate the provisions this act.

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31 2. There is appropriated \$10,000 from the General Fund to the  
32 Department of State to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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34 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill would require the Governor to biennially present the New  
40 Jersey State William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit to a  
41 distinguished New Jersey poet. This person will be considered the  
42 poet laureate for the State of New Jersey. The poet laureate will be  
43 appointed by a panel that will be convened every two years by the  
44 New Jersey Council for the Humanities. The panel will be composed  
45 of persons from New Jersey who are distinguished poets and who have

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1 particular expertise in the field of poetry. The current poet laureate  
2 will also be a member of the panel choosing the next poet laureate.

3 The poet laureate will receive a \$10,000 honorarium and will be  
4 required to promote and encourage poetry within the State and give  
5 two public readings within the State each year.

6 This bill also includes a \$10,000 appropriation to effectuate the  
7 purposes of the bill.

8 The poetry citation of merit is named in honor of William Carlos  
9 Williams (1883-1963), a poet with a worldwide reputation, who also  
10 practiced medicine in the place where he was born, Rutherford, New  
11 Jersey. He received the National Book Award for poetry in 1950 and  
12 was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1963.