

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, BANKING AND
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 2714

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 3, 1999

The Senate State Government, Banking and Financial Institutions Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2714 ACS (1R).

This bill establishes the New Jersey William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit, which the Governor will present biennially to a distinguished New Jersey poet. This person will be considered the poet laureate of the State of New Jersey and will receive a \$10,000 honorarium.

The poet laureate will be named by a four member panel that will be convened every two years by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. The panel will be appointed by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities in consultation with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. The panel members must be distinguished poets or personages from New Jersey.

The poet laureate will be required to promote and encourage poetry within the State and to give no fewer than two public readings within the State each year.

The poetry citation of merit is named in honor of William Carlos Williams (1883-1963), a poet of worldwide repute, who practiced medicine in his birthplace of Rutherford, New Jersey. He received the National Book Award for poetry in 1950 and was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1963.