

Approved: 2/6/96
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Al Ramirez at 1:30 p.m. on January 31, 1996 in room 531--N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Julian Efird, Legislative Research Department
Fred Carman, Revisor of Statutes
Jacqueline Breymeyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative David Adkins
Eric Hayashi, Arts Commission

Others attending: See attached list

The meeting of the Governmental Organization Committee was called to order at 1:33 p.m. by Senator Ramirez, Chairperson. He called for action on the January 23, January 24, January 25 and January 30 minutes. Senator Papay moved the minutes of January 23, 24, 25, and 30 be approved. Senator Steffes gave a second to the motion. The motion carried.

The Committee was directed by the Chairman to turn its attention to SB 506--concerning the Civil Air Patrol. The Revisor distributed copies of the amendments that were made in agreement with the Patrol.

Senator Papay moved to amend SB 506 in line 22 by inserting after the word report, "personnel actions and other actions in the state administrative process." Senator Steffes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Jordan moved to amend SB 506 in line 26 by inserting after the word patrol, "shall be appropriated as a separate line item and shall not be merged with other items of appropriation for the adjutant general. Such moneys" Senator Steffes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Gooch recommended SB 506 favorable for passage as amended. Senator Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Gooch will carry the bill.

The Chairman directed attention to SB 370--historic preservation, state officer, contracts with state board of regents and institutions, delegation of duties, and called for action on the bill.

Senator Lee recommended SB 370 favorable for passage. Senator Jordan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Senator Reynolds will carry the bill.

The Chairman opened the hearing on SB 406--poet laureate of the state of Kansas, establishment and appointment.

Representative David Adkins appeared in support of the bill. He distributed a Memorandum entitled "States with Poets Laureate". (Attachment 1) This bill was one of the interim proposals advanced by the Joint Committee. The poet laureate must be a resident of Kansas and shall be appointed by the governor from a list of three nominees submitted by the Kansas Arts Commission. He stated that there is a poet laureate appointed to serve on a national basis. The Kansas Arts Commission currently oversees the governor's arts program. This program provides recognition for the outstanding artists in the state. **SB 406** will place importance on the strength of poetry as part of the literature and cultural tradition of Kansas. It will provide a roll model for school children as well as others who appreciate literature and the arts.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE ROOM 531--N
Statehouse, at 1:30 p.m. on January 31, 1996.

Representative Adkins showed the committee an art book he had put together in 4th grade. He stated that in a sense, poetry is the special effects of the English language. Kansas has nothing to apologize for when it comes to the arts and culture. Artistic traditions are generally expressed in folk art traditions, but there are Kansas artists who have excelled in all fields of endeavor. Representative Adkins stated that it seems particularly appropriate that this bill might be considered in February, which is Black History month. Langston Hughes, perhaps one of the best known men of letters in the African American tradition, grew up in Lawrence, Kansas.

Representative Adkins was asked to explain the duties of the poet laureate. He replied that it is mainly a significant official honor to draw attention and recognize someone of significance whose love of the language and competence of the written word is such that whether by travel throughout the state or at meetings, conferences and other function participation, the title would confer would confer the credibility to speak on related issues and act as a role model. There is no significant job description or office this person would have.

In response to a question from one of the committee, Representative stated that this could probably be done through the Arts Commission. He referred to the Memorandum which showed the state of Connecticut language. It states "The state commission on the arts may appoint a state poet laureate." He stated that he thinks a gubernatorial appointment has a higher stature and would draw more public focus to the idea. The bill passed out of the Joint Arts and Cultural resources unanimously.

Eric Hayashi, Executive Director, Arts Commission, also made several favorable comments on the bill, agreeing with Representative Adkins that the gubernatorial appointment would draw more focus.

The Chairman stated that as the agenda for next week was uncertain, action on the bill could be taken today.

Senator Feleciano recommended **SB 406** favorable for passage. Senator Steffes seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Senator Feleciano will carry the bill.

There were two requests for bill introduction by the Appraisal Board that the Chairman stated the committee would introduce as a courtesy to the Board.

The Revisor read the titles of the bill requests. The first bill was entitled, "An Act concerning real estate appraisers; renewal of certificate of license;" the second bill request was entitled, "An Act concerning the state certified and licensed real property appraisers act; board actions on licenses and certificates;"

Senator Feleciano moved the bills be introduced. Senator Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: January 31, 1996

NAME	REPRESENTING
<i>Rep David Adkins</i>	

memorandum

To: Senate Committee on Governmental Organization

From: Representative David Adkins

States with Poets Laureate

Twelve states in America recognize non-visual artists, e.g., writers and poets, with titles such as "poet laureate." They are: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, South Carolina and West Virginia. A review of the various states' methods of appointing and compensating their poets laureate follows.

Arkansas

Arkansas' governor is authorized to appoint a poet laureate by proclamation. The title is an honorary one, and the statute authorizing Arkansas' poet laureate specifies that the person so recognized must be an Arkansas resident. The poet laureate is chosen from a list of names submitted by a committee consisting of the heads of the English departments of all state-supported universities and colleges in Arkansas.

Connecticut

The Connecticut statute authorizing a state poet laureate says simply: "The state commission on the arts may appoint a state poet laureate."

Delaware

The governor of Delaware is authorized to appoint a poet laureate to a two-year term, the term beginning on January 1 in odd-numbered years. The poet laureate is required to perform such duties as may be assigned by the Governor, the Secretary of State or their designees. The Secretary of State's Office is to provide the poet laureate with administrative and clerical support upon request, including the provision of office space.

Representative David Adkins

*Senate Governmental Organization
Attachment 1
1/31/96*

□Georgia

The poet laureate of Georgia is appointed by the governor from a list of three nominees submitted by the Georgia Council for the Arts. The Council is required to furnish the list to the governor within 30 days after the governor's entry into office, and the governor is to appoint the poet laureate within 30 days after the receipt of nominees. The poet laureate's term is concurrent with the governor's. The position is honorary, and the poet laureate receives no compensation.

□Kentucky

The Kentucky poet laureate is appointed by the governor to a two-year term. The governor may, if he wishes, appoint a "writer laureate" instead of a poet. The poet or writer laureate is required to make a presentation on Kentucky Writers' Day (held yearly on April 24 to honor Kentucky writers), to act as a writing consultant to the Kentucky Departments of Education and Libraries and Archives. The poet laureate receives no compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses.

□Louisiana

Louisiana statutes allow the governor to appoint a poet laureate. The poet laureate must be a resident of Louisiana. There is no compensation. The governor is also authorized to appoint a Louisiana "artist laureate."

□Maryland

The governor may appoint a Maryland citizen to the post of poet laureate. The person serving as poet laureate receives no compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses up to \$1,000 per fiscal year.

□New Hampshire

The governor of New Hampshire is, according to state statute, to appoint a poet laureate to a five-year term with the advice and consent of the state council. The person appointed to this office is to be a resident of New Hampshire, and may be reappointed to the position. The poet laureate is chosen by the governor from a list of

names submitted by the New Hampshire poetry society. The person appointed to this office receives no remuneration.

□New York

The governor of New York awards, biennially, the "Walt Whitman Citation of Merit" to a distinguished New York poet. The poet is chosen from a panel selected by the New York State Writers' Institute. The poet is to encourage the art of poetry in the state, and must give at least two public readings in the state each year. The Citation carries an honorarium of \$10,000.

□Oregon

The governor of Oregon appoints a poet laureate for the purpose of honoring "those resident poets of Oregon who have been most responsible for capturing the beauty and spirit of the state through the medium of verse." The poet must have been a resident of Oregon for at least ten years, and must be well-regarded as a poet. The poet laureate serves at the pleasure of the governor.

□South Carolina

South Carolina's poet laureate statute says simply that "the Governor may name and appoint some outstanding and distinguished man of letters as poet laureate for the State of South Carolina."

□West Virginia

The governor of West Virginia is to appoint a poet laureate, who serves at the governor's pleasure. The poet laureate must be a resident of West Virginia, and must have written and published poems of recognized merit. The post carries an annual salary of \$2,000.