

SUBJECT: Designating a Texas poet laureate, state musician, and state artist

COMMITTEE: State, Federal and International Relations — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Hunter, P. Moreno, Chavez, Elkins, Madden, Miller, Najera, Raymond
0 nays
1 absent — Berman

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, March 29 — 30-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: (*On House companion bill, HB 1974:*)
For — None
Against — None
On — John Paul Batiste and Ricardo Hernandez, Texas Commission on the Arts; *Registered did not testify:* Fred Snell, Texas Commission on the Arts

DIGEST: CSSB 1043 would establish the Texas poet laureate, state musician, and state artist committee and require it to designate a Texas poet laureate, a state musician, a state artist for two-dimensional media, and a state artist for three-dimensional media from a list of people submitted by the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA). The honorees would receive no pay and would keep their designations for one year after the designation ceremony.

The committee would consist of seven members, including one appointed by the governor, three appointed by the lieutenant governor, and three appointed by the House speaker. One of the speaker's appointees would have to be the chair of the committee with primary jurisdiction over arts and cultural matters (currently, the State, Federal and International Relations Committee).

In compiling its list of nominees, TCA would have to solicit nominations from the arts and cultural community. TCA could receive submissions from

nominees and could assemble a group of artists, musicians, writers, scholars, and other experts to review these submissions and to provide advice on who should be considered for designation. The commission would have to submit to the committee a list of up to 10 people for each designation. The governor and the committee members would honor the designees in a ceremony at the state capitol.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2001.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSSB 1043 would establish a regular process for designating a Texas poet laureate, a state musician, and a separate state artist for two- and three-dimensional media. In 1933, the 43rd Legislature first adopted a concurrent resolution authorizing the lieutenant governor and House speaker to appoint a committee to designate a Texas poet laureate. A poet laureate was designated every year from 1933 to 1981, but the designation has become intermittent since then. CSSB 1043 would establish the selection committee in statute to designate outstanding people regularly as the Texas poet laureate, state musician, or state artist.

These designations would increase Texas's visibility as a state with first-class arts and cultural communities. Many Texan poets, musicians, and artists are recognized nationwide. CSSB 1043 would ensure that these outstanding people also received special recognition at home.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The committee substitute changed the filed version to conform to the Texas Legislative Council style and format.

The companion bill, HB 1974 by Hunter, et. al., was reported favorably as substituted by the House State, Federal, and International Relations Committee on March 27.