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## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HISTORIAN LAUREATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representative Nicholas A. Mattiello

Date Introduced: January 11, 2012

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 42 of the General Laws entitled "STATE AFFAIRS AND  
2 GOVERNMENT" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

### CHAPTER 100.1

#### HISTORIAN LAUREATE OF RHODE ISLAND

5 **42-100.1-1. Historian laureate.** – There is hereby created the post of historian laureate  
6 of Rhode Island.

7 **42-100.1-2. Appointment.** – The historian laureate shall be appointed for a term of five  
8 (5) years by the secretary of state.

9 **42-100.1-3. Compensation.** – The historian laureate shall receive no compensation.

10 **42-100.1-4. Qualifications.** – The historian laureate must have earned recognition and  
11 distinction as the author of authoritative books or essays about the history of Rhode Island; or  
12 served in a leadership position in staging commemorative public observances pertaining to  
13 various aspects of the history of Rhode Island; or taught and lectured about the history of Rhode  
14 Island to the general public.

15 **42-100.1-5. Duties.** – The duties of the historian laureate shall include delivering  
16 historical lectures about pertinent aspects of Rhode Island history at important state historical  
17 ceremonies and observances at the request of the governor, the speaker of the house, the president  
18 of the senate, the chief justice of the supreme court, or the secretary of state; furnishing historical

1 information or advice to the above-named officers upon request; reading and editing state-  
2 sponsored historical publications for accuracy upon request; and such other duties pertaining to  
3 the dissemination of information about Rhode Island history and heritage as the above-mentioned  
4 officers may from time-to-time require.

5 **42-100.1-6. Certification. --** The secretary of state shall issue to the appointee a  
6 certificate bearing the seal of the state upon which is designated the name of the appointee, the  
7 words "historian laureate of Rhode Island," and the term of office set forth from beginning to  
8 ending month and year of service.

9 **42-100.1-7. Position of honor. --** The position of historian laureate shall be honorific  
10 only, and shall not confer official status upon any historical writings, lectures, or pronouncements  
11 of the laureate; nor shall the statements or views of the laureate be regarded as the official  
12 position of the state in any court of law; nor the position of any of the state officers enumerated  
13 above in section 42-100.1-5.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- HISTORIAN LAUREATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND

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- 1 This act would establish the position of historian laureate in Rhode Island.
- 2 This act would take effect upon passage.

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