

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

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

Introduced By: Representatives Williams, Giraldo, Vella-Wilkinson, Batista, and Morales

Date Introduced: March 02, 2022

Referred To: House State Government & Elections

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 42-100.1-2, 42-100.1-4 and 42-100.1-5 of the General Laws in  
2 Chapter 42-100.1 entitled "Historian Laureate of Rhode Island" are hereby amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 **42-100.1-2. Appointment.**

5 The historian laureate shall be appointed for a term of ~~five (5)~~ three (3) years by the  
6 secretary of state with the advice and consent of the senate. Prior to the reappointment of any  
7 historian laureate, there shall be a review by the secretary of state, or designee, of the historian  
8 laureate's performance and duties pursuant to §§ 42-100.1-5 and 42-100.1-8 over the last three (3)  
9 years.

10 **42-100.1-4. Qualifications.**

11 The historian laureate must have earned recognition and distinction as the author of  
12 authoritative books or essays about the history of Rhode Island; or served in a leadership position  
13 in staging commemorative public observances pertaining to various aspects of the history of Rhode  
14 Island; or taught and lectured about the history of Rhode Island to the general public. The historian  
15 laureate shall possess the knowledge, awareness and acceptance of the different cultures and  
16 cultural identities of the persons of the state.

17 **42-100.1-5. Duties.**

18 (a) The duties of the historian laureate shall include: ~~delivering~~

- 1           (1) Delivering and promoting through public and social media platforms historical lectures  
2 about pertinent aspects of Rhode Island history at important state historical ceremonies and  
3 observances at the request of the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president  
4 of the senate, the chief justice of the supreme court, or the secretary of state; ~~furnishing-~~  
5           (2) Furnishing historical information or advice to the above-named officers upon request;  
6           (3) Reading ~~reading~~ and editing state-sponsored historical publications for accuracy upon  
7 request;  
8           (4) Authoring one authoritative book or essay and establishing two (2) commemorative  
9 public observances pertaining to various aspects of the history of Rhode Island, each term, in  
10 consultation with of the Rhode Island historical preservation and heritage commission;  
11           (5) Developing and implementing programs about pertinent aspects of Rhode Island  
12 history in consultation with of the Rhode Island historical preservation and heritage commission;  
13           (6) Collecting, editing and publishing any archives, records, papers or manuscripts that are  
14 deemed essential or desirable for the preservation of Rhode Island history;  
15           (7) Preparing and publishing, or assisting in the preparation and publication of, works  
16 relating to Rhode Island history;  
17           (8) Acquiring, administering, preserving, exhibiting, interpreting, loaning, exchanging, or  
18 disposing of historical personal property objects relating to Rhode Island history;  
19           (9) Advising and assisting the Rhode Island historical preservation and heritage  
20 commission concerning the designation, acquisition, administration, interpretation, use or  
21 disposition of any historic site, property or place relative to Rhode Island history, and coordinating  
22 educational programs and projects at such historic sites or properties;  
23           (10) Promoting the establishment and improvement of programs for the management and  
24 preservation of local government records with enduring value for historical or other research;  
25           (11) Encouraging the coordinated collection and preservation of nongovernmental  
26 historical records by libraries, historical societies, and other repositories;  
27           (12) Carrying out and actively encouraging research in historical records in order to add to  
28 the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Rhode Island history; and  
29           (13) Such ~~such~~ other duties pertaining to the dissemination of information about Rhode  
30 Island history and heritage ~~as the above mentioned officers~~ may be required from time-to-time  
31 ~~require~~.  
32           (b) The historian laureate shall perform all duties with no compensation pursuant to § 42-  
33 100.1-3.

34           SECTION 2. Chapter 42-100.1 of the General Laws entitled "Historian Laureate of Rhode

1 Island" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

2 **42-100.1-8. Report.**

3 The historian laureate shall provide a written report, no later than January 31 of each year,  
4 to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the secretary of state,  
5 and the Rhode Island historical preservation and heritage commission, of the programs, projects  
6 and activities undertaken and completed during the preceding year.

7 SECTION 3. 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 reduce the term of the historian laureate of Rhode Island from a five (5)  
2 year term to a three (3) year term, and would require the historian laureate to develop and implement  
3 programs about pertinent aspects of Rhode Island history in consultation with the Rhode Island  
4 Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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