

# 52:16A-26.9

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

**LAWS OF:** 1999                    **CHAPTER:** 228

**NJSA:** 52:16A-26.9      (William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit)

**BILL NO:** A2714

**SPONSOR(S):** Bagger and Lance

**DATE INTRODUCED:** December 10, 1998

**COMMITTEE:**            **ASSEMBLY:** State Government

**SENATE:** State Government, Banking & Financial Institutions

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**            **ASSEMBLY:** March 29, 1999

**SENATE:** June 21, 1999

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** October 4, 1999

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL:** Assembly Committee Substitute (1R)  
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 2 of original bill) [Yes](#)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                            **ASSEMBLY:** [Yes](#)

**SENATE:** [Yes](#)

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** [Yes](#)

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** [Yes](#)

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. 102 or [refdesk@njstatelib.org](mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org)

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No



P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 228, *approved October 4, 1999*  
Assembly Committee Substitute (*First Reprint*) for  
Assembly, No. 2714

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey William Carlos Williams Citation  
2 of Merit, supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes and  
3 making an appropriation.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 1. a. There is hereby established the New Jersey William Carlos  
9 Williams Citation of Merit to be presented to a distinguished <sup>1</sup>**[New**  
10 **Jersey]**<sup>1</sup> poet <sup>1</sup>from New Jersey<sup>1</sup> who shall be considered the poet  
11 laureate of the State of New Jersey for a period of two years. The  
12 poet laureate shall receive an honorarium of \$10,000.

13 b. The New Jersey Council for the Humanities<sup>1</sup>, in consultation  
14 with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts,<sup>1</sup> shall biennially  
15 appoint and convene a panel of four persons <sup>1</sup>**[from the State]**<sup>1</sup> who  
16 are <sup>1</sup>either<sup>1</sup> distinguished poets <sup>1</sup>**[and]** <sup>1</sup>or persons<sup>1</sup> who represent a  
17 range of stylistic approaches in the field of poetry. <sup>1</sup>Each member of  
18 the first such panel shall be from New Jersey.<sup>1</sup> After the <sup>1</sup>**[naming]**  
19 term<sup>1</sup> of the first poet laureate <sup>1</sup>**[, each current]** <sup>1</sup>and each subsequent<sup>1</sup>  
20 poet laureate <sup>1</sup>has expired, that person<sup>1</sup> shall serve as <sup>1</sup>**[a member]**  
21 one of the members<sup>1</sup> of the panel <sup>1</sup>**[in choosing]** <sup>1</sup>for a period of two  
22 years and participate in the selection of<sup>1</sup> the next poet laureate. The  
23 panel shall submit to the Governor the name of the poet to whom the  
24 citation of merit shall be presented and who shall be considered poet  
25 laureate of the State for the subsequent two years.

26 c. The Governor shall present biennially the New Jersey William  
27 Carlos Williams Citation of Merit.

28 d. The poet laureate shall engage in activities to promote and  
29 encourage poetry within the State and shall give no fewer than two  
30 public readings within the State each year while the poet holds the  
31 laureate designation.

32 e. The New Jersey Council for the Humanities, in consultation with  
33 the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, shall establish such  
34 guidelines as are deemed necessary to effectuate the purposes of this  
35 section.

36

37 2. There is appropriated \$10,000 from the General Fund to the  
38 Department of State to effectuate the purposes of this act.

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted March 15, 1999.

1       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

5

6       Establishes New Jersey William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit for  
7       distinguished New Jersey poet; appropriates \$10,000.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2714

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RICHARD H. BAGGER**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman LEONARD LANCE**

**District 23 (Warren, Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides for the award every two years of the New Jersey State William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit for a distinguished New Jersey poet and appropriates \$10,000.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey State William Carlos Williams  
2 Citation of Merit for distinguished New Jersey poets,  
3 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes and making an  
4 appropriation.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
7 of New Jersey:

8

9 1. a. The Governor shall biennially present the New Jersey State  
10 William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit to a distinguished New  
11 Jersey poet upon the recommendation of the panel convened pursuant  
12 to subsection b. of this section. The poet selected shall be considered  
13 the poet laureate of the State and the citation shall carry an  
14 honorarium of \$10,000.

15 b. The New Jersey Council for the Humanities shall biennially  
16 appoint and convene an advisory panel of persons from New Jersey  
17 who are distinguished poets and who have particular expertise in the  
18 field of poetry. The council shall appoint, to the extent possible, a  
19 panel that represents a range of stylistic approaches in the field of  
20 poetry. Each current poet laureate shall serve as a member of the  
21 panel in choosing the next poet laureate. The panel shall recommend  
22 to the Governor a poet whose achievements make that person  
23 deserving of the recognition.

24 c. The poet laureate of the State shall promote and encourage  
25 poetry within the State and shall give two public readings within the  
26 State each year.

27 d. The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules pursuant to the  
28 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.)  
29 to effectuate the provisions this act.

30

31 2. There is appropriated \$10,000 from the General Fund to the  
32 Department of State to effectuate the purposes of this act.

33

34 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

35

36

37

STATEMENT

38

39 This bill would require the Governor to biennially present the New  
40 Jersey State William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit to a  
41 distinguished New Jersey poet. This person will be considered the  
42 poet laureate for the State of New Jersey. The poet laureate will be  
43 appointed by a panel that will be convened every two years by the  
44 New Jersey Council for the Humanities. The panel will be composed  
45 of persons from New Jersey who are distinguished poets and who have

**A2714 BAGGER, LANCE**

3

1 particular expertise in the field of poetry. The current poet laureate  
2 will also be a member of the panel choosing the next poet laureate.

3 The poet laureate will receive a \$10,000 honorarium and will be  
4 required to promote and encourage poetry within the State and give  
5 two public readings within the State each year.

6 This bill also includes a \$10,000 appropriation to effectuate the  
7 purposes of the bill.

8 The poetry citation of merit is named in honor of William Carlos  
9 Williams (1883-1963), a poet with a worldwide reputation, who also  
10 practiced medicine in the place where he was born, Rutherford, New  
11 Jersey. He received the National Book Award for poetry in 1950 and  
12 was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1963.

# ASSEMBLY STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **ASSEMBLY, No. 2714**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 25, 1999

The Assembly State Government Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly, No. 2714.

This committee substitute 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 for the State of New Jersey and will receive a \$10,000 honorarium.

The poet laureate will be named by a panel that will be convened every two years by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities and composed of four persons from New Jersey who are distinguished poets. The current poet laureate will also be a member of the panel choosing the next poet laureate.

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

This substitute includes a \$10,000 appropriation to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

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



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.

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 2714**

with Assembly Floor Amendments  
(Proposed By Assemblyman LANCE)

ADOPTED: MARCH 15, 1999

These amendments provide that the New Jersey Council for the Humanities shall consult with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to: 1) appoint and convene a panel of four persons who will select the person to receive the William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit and be considered the poet laureate of New Jersey; and 2) establish such guidelines as are deemed necessary to effectuate the purposes of the act.

The amendments also makes clear that: 1) the person awarded the William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit and considered the poet laureate of New Jersey must be a distinguished poet from New Jersey; 2) members of the panel must be either distinguished poets or persons who represent a range of stylistic approaches in the field of poetry; 3) each member of the first such panel shall be from New Jersey; and 4) after the term of the first poet laureate and each subsequent poet laureate, that person will serve as one of the members of the panel for a period of two years and participate in the selection of the next poet laureate.

Although one of the amendments removes the requirement that the members of the panel be from this State, another amendment requires that each member of the first panel be from New Jersey and because each poet laureate must be from New Jersey and will serve as a member of the panel after his or her term has expired, the result is that the panel will always have at least one member from New Jersey.

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

*Office of the Governor*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Gene Herman  
609-777-2600

RELEASE: October 4, 1999

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed the following piece of legislation:

**ACS for A-2714**, sponsored by Assembly Members Richard H. Bagger (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Leonard Lance (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer), establishes the New Jersey William Carlos Williams Citation of Merit to be presented to a distinguished poet from New Jersey. Williams was a world-renowned poet and Pulitzer Prize winner who practiced medicine in his hometown of Rutherford, N.J. According to the bill, the recipient of the Citation of Merit shall be considered the poet laureate of the State of New Jersey for a period of two years. The poet laureate will receive an honorarium of \$10,000. The bill appropriates that amount from the General Fund to the Department of State.

The bill requires the poet laureate to engage in activities to promote and encourage poetry within the state and to give at least two public readings in the state each year of the two-year term.