

resolution naming a commission to pick a successor to that position. However, that committee has not accomplished its work largely due to the fact that, number one, expenses were not provided, and, number two, there has been illness on that commission and, in fact, since that time the death of a couple of members of that original search committee. It is time to renew the search for a Poet Laureate and I think as a gesture of good faith this body needs to be on the record to indicate its willingness to go forward with the project and that is why this resolution is before you. The resolution simply states that the Commission for the Humanities will enunciate an open selection process and that at the end of that process recommendations will be made to the Legislature and to the Governor. Again the responsibility to name a Poet Laureate is not being given to the Commission. Rather that power still rests with this body and with the Governor and we simply seek from the Commission recommendations for people who would be an appropriate person to be named Poet Laureate for this state. Since it costs no monies, since it serves a noble purpose, and since all parties have been apprised and apparently are willing to take up this task, both the Governor's Office and the Commission, I would urge its adoption and move the body to pass LR 2 at this time.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman. No. The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, Senators, Senator Landis, would you answer a couple of questions for me?

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, will you respond?

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: What does "laureate" mean?

SENATOR LANDIS: It comes from a laurel wreath. It means to be honored and it means the poet laureate who is the honored poet of the state and comes from the same expression as perhaps the garland that is worn by a champion in the Greek days in the Olympic games.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you. Would you have any objections to changing your resolution to read "poet or poetess" laureate?

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. The term "poet" is a term that can apply both to a male and a female writer of poetry as Emily Dickinson is referred to as an American poet.