

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2026**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Patrick M. O'Connor*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to create the title of musician laureate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Patrick M. O'Connor</i>	<i>Plymouth and Norfolk</i>	
<i>Joan Meschino</i>	<i>3rd Plymouth</i>	<i>1/17/2019</i>

**SENATE . . . . . No. 2026**

---

---

By Mr. O'Connor, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2026) of Patrick M. O'Connor and Joan Meschino for legislation to create the title of musician laureate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development.

---

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court  
(2019-2020)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to create the title of musician laureate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section  
2 38, the following section:-

3           Section XX. (a) Biennially, on or before March 31, the governor may appoint a Musician  
4 Laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from a list of nominees submitted by the  
5 Musician Laureate Nominating Committee pursuant to subsection (b). The Musician Laureate  
6 may choose to write and/or perform music to commemorate important events, such as  
7 ceremonial occasions, celebrations, and state anniversaries as appropriate. The individual may  
8 also act as the governor's adviser in musical matters. The Musician Laureate shall also represent  
9 the state's musical legacy. The Musician Laureate shall be appointed to serve for a term of 2  
10 years or until a successor is appointed and qualified as provided in this section. There shall be no  
11 restriction on reappointment. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Musician Laureate, the  
12 vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

13 (b) There shall be a Musician Laureate Nominating Committee consisting of the  
14 following 5 members: the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or a designee; the Senate  
15 President, or a designee; and 3 members appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall be a  
16 member of the board of directors of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Members of the  
17 Musician Laureate Nominating Committee shall serve without compensation.

18 (c) The Musician Laureate Nominating Committee shall advertise and receive  
19 nominations submitted by citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the selection of  
20 the Musician Laureate. Nominees shall be residents of the Commonwealth and shall provide  
21 biographical and professional information. The Musician Laureate Nominating Committee shall  
22 review all nominations and select 3 nominees on the basis of their overall excellence and their  
23 dedicated commitment to the arts in Massachusetts. Nominees should represent the state's  
24 diverse musical community. The Musician Laureate Nominating Committee shall submit the 3  
25 nominees to the governor biennially on or before February 1.

26 (d) The Musician Laureate shall be an honorary position and the person appointed shall  
27 receive no monetary remuneration from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The person  
28 appointed to the position of Musician Laureate shall not be considered a state official or a state  
29 employee for such person's service in the position of Musician Laureate.