

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 355

93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR GRIESHEIMER.

Read 1st time February 15, 2005, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1623S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 311.554, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof fifteen new sections relating to the Missouri wine and grape board.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 311.554, RSMo, is repealed and fifteen new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 262.820, 262.823, 262.826, 262.829, 262.832, 262.835, 262.838, 262.841, 262.844, 262.847, 262.850, 262.853, 262.856, 262.859, and 311.554, to read as follows:

262.820. There is hereby created the "Missouri Wine and Grape Board", a body politic and corporate, an independent instrumentality exercising essential public functions, with duties and powers as set forth in sections 262.820 to 262.859.

262.823. The purpose of the board shall be to further the growth and development of the grape growing industry in the state of Missouri. The board shall have a correlate purpose of fostering the expansion of the grape market for Missouri grapes. To effectuate these goals, the board may:

(1) Participate in cooperation with state, regional, national, or international activities, groups, and organizations whose objectives are that of developing new and better grape varieties to determine their suitability for growing in Missouri;

(2) Participate in and develop research projects on improved wine making methods utilizing the new grape varieties to be grown in Missouri;

(3) Utilize the individual and collective expertise of the board members as well as experts in the fields of enology and viticulture selected by the board, to update and improve the quality of grapes grown in Missouri and advanced methods of producing wines from these Missouri grapes;

(4) Furnish current information and associated data on research conducted by and for the board to grape growers and vintners in Missouri as well as to

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

interested persons considering entering these fields within the state; and

(5) Participate in subsequent studies, programs, research, and information and data dissemination in the areas of sales, promotions, and effective distribution of Missouri wines.

262.826. As used in sections 262.820 to 262.859, the following terms shall mean:

(1) "Board", the Missouri wine and grape board established pursuant to section 262.820;

(2) "Council", the Missouri wine marketing and research council established pursuant to section 275.462, RSMo.

262.829. The principal office of the board shall be located in Jefferson City, Missouri. The board may have offices at such other places as the board may from time to time designate. The board shall act as the organization within the department of agriculture charged with the promotion, research, and advisement of grapes and grape products in Missouri, and shall receive funding under section 311.554, RSMo.

262.832. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, no officer or employee of this state shall be deemed to have forfeited or shall forfeit his or her office or employment by reason of his or her acceptance of membership on the board or his or her service thereto.

262.835. The powers of the board shall be vested in eleven members, who shall be residents of this state. The board shall be composed of seven industry members who shall represent the Missouri grape and wine industry, food service industry, or media marketing industry. These seven members shall be current members of the Missouri grape and wine advisory board as of the effective date of this act. Such members shall serve the remainder of their terms established for the advisory board. Upon the expiration of the terms of such members, the members of the board representing the industry shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate. Except for ex-officio members, each board member appointed by the governor shall serve a four-year term ending four years from the date of expiration of the term for which his or her predecessor was appointed; except that a person appointed to fill a vacancy prior to the expiration of such a term shall be appointed for the remainder of the term. No board member appointed under sections 262.820 to 262.859 by the governor shall serve more than two consecutive full terms. Each appointed board member shall hold office for the term of the members appointment and until a successor is appointed and qualified. The board shall have four ex-officio members, including the president of the Missouri Grape Growers Association, the president of the

Missouri Vintners Association, the president of the Missouri Wine Marketing and Research Council, and the director of the department of agriculture. Ex-officio members shall be voting members of the board and their terms will coincide with the time they hold the elected or appointed office qualifying them to be a member of the board.

262.838. A board member shall be removed from office by the governor for malfeasance, willful neglect of duty, or other cause after notice and public hearing, unless such notice or hearing shall be expressly waived in writing.

262.841. The board members shall annually elect from among their number a chairperson and vice chairperson, and such other officers as they may deem necessary.

262.844. The board shall meet in Jefferson City within sixty days of the effective date of this act to elect a chairperson and vice chairperson of the board. The committee shall thereafter meet annually, within sixty days of July first, to elect officers and conduct business of the board. Additional meetings shall be held at the call of the chairperson or whenever two board members so request. Six members of the board shall constitute a quorum, and any action taken by the board under the provisions of sections 262.820 to 262.859 may be authorized by resolution approved by a majority, but not less than five, of the board members present at any regular or special meeting. In the absence of the chairman, the vice chairman may preside over the annual meeting of the board or in the absence of the chairman, any meeting requested by two or more commissioners. No vacancy in the membership of the board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform all the duties of the board.

262.847. Board members shall receive no compensation for the performance of their duties under sections 262.820 to 262.859, but each board member shall be reimbursed from the funds of the board for actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out the member's official duties under sections 262.820 to 262.859.

262.850. The board shall employ an executive director. The executive director shall be the secretary of the board and shall administer, manage, and direct the affairs and business of the board, subject to the policies, control, and direction of the board. The board may employ technical experts and such other officers, agents, and employees as they deem necessary, and may fix their qualifications, duties, and compensation. The executive director of the board shall be paid an amount to be determined by the board, but not to exceed that of a division director of the department of agriculture. The executive director and all other employees of the board shall be state employees and eligible for all corresponding benefits. The board may delegate to the executive director, or to

one or more of its agents or employees, such powers and duties as it may deem proper.

262.853. The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the board and shall be custodian of all books, documents, and papers filed with the board and of its minute book. The secretary shall have the authority to cause to be made copies of all minutes and other records and documents of the board.

262.856. The board shall have all of the powers necessary and convenient to carry out and effectuate the purposes and provisions of sections 262.820 to 262.859, including, but not limited to, the power to:

(1) Receive and accept from any source, aid, or contributions of money, property, labor, or other things of value to be held, used, and applied to carry out the purposes of sections 262.820 to 262.859, subject to the conditions upon which the grants or contributions are made, including, but not limited to, gifts, or grants from any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States for any purpose consistent with sections 262.820 to 262.859;

(2) To work with and counsel the viticulture and enology experts on the needs and requirements of grape producers and wine makers so as to optimize their work in developing the best strains of all grape varieties related to soil and climate conditions throughout the state and developing the art of wine making utilizing Missouri produced grapes;

(3) To review progress and final reports from these experts to determine the potential of economic forecasts for developing the Missouri grape and wine industries;

(4) To confer and cooperate with similar boards or councils in other states to further understandings and accords on the grape and wine industries;

(5) To approve and recommend desirable amendments to these powers of the board;

(6) To perform such other duties as may be necessary to proper operations of the board.

262.859. The board shall, following the close of each fiscal year, submit an annual report of its activities for the preceding year to the governor and the general assembly. Each report shall set forth a complete operating and financial statement for the authority during the fiscal year it covers.

311.554. 1. In addition to the charges imposed by section 311.550, there shall be paid to and collected by the director of revenue for the privilege of selling wine, an additional charge of six cents per gallon or fraction thereof. The additional charge shall be paid and collected in the same manner and at the same time that the charges imposed by section 311.550 are paid and collected.

[2. The revenue derived from the additional charge imposed by subsection 1 shall be deposited by the state treasurer to the credit of a separate account in the marketing development fund created by section 261.035, RSMo. Moneys to the credit of the account shall be appropriated annually for use by the division of the state department of agriculture concerned with] **The revenue derived from such additional charge shall be deposited by the state treasurer in the Missouri wine and grape fund created by this section. Such moneys deposited in the fund shall be used only for market development in developing programs for growing, selling, and marketing of grapes and grape products grown in Missouri, including all necessary funding for the employment of experts in the fields of viticulture and enology as deemed necessary, and programs aimed at improving marketing of all varieties of grapes grown in Missouri; and shall be appropriated and used for no other purpose.**

2. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Missouri Wine and Grape Fund", which shall consist of money collected under this section. The state treasurer shall be custodian of the fund and shall approve disbursements from the fund to the department of agriculture in accordance with sections 30.170 and 30.180, RSMo. Upon appropriation, money in the fund shall be used solely for the administration of this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, any moneys remaining in the fund at the end of the biennium shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund. The state treasurer shall invest moneys in the fund in the same manner as other funds are invested. Any interest and moneys earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund.

3. In addition to the charges imposed by subsection 1 of this section and section 311.550, there shall be paid to and collected by the director of revenue for the privilege of selling wine an additional charge of six cents per gallon or fraction thereof. This additional six cents per gallon shall be deposited by the state treasurer [to the credit of a separate account in the marketing development fund created by section 261.035, RSMo. Moneys to the credit account shall be appropriated annually for the use by the division of the Missouri department of agriculture concerned with] **in the Missouri wine and grape fund as created by this section. Such moneys deposited in the fund shall be used only for the research and advisement of grapes and grape products in Missouri, including all necessary funding for the employment of experts in the fields of viticulture and enology.**