

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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Intergovernmental Relations
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Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

In recognition of both the direct and indirect revenues that could be generated for the state by a robust wine industry, Lieutenant Governor Dewhurst charged the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the 78th Legislature to study and make recommendations relating to the development of the Texas wine industry, assess the impact of state and federal laws on the shipment and delivery of wine, and make recommendations for increasing the economic impact of the wine industry in Texas.

The Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations found that Texas has all the elements necessary to be a competitive force in the national and international wine industries; the Texas wine industry could prove to be a stellar economic generator for the state, and with the proper policies in place, the wine industry is positioned to boom within the next five to 10 years.

Although progress has been made through the years, insufficient funding and budget reductions for new and existing education, training, and research hinder the development of the industry; moreover, the lack of a consistent, coordinated, and centralized effort among industry stakeholders and public policy makers to develop appropriate programs and policies, to explore, develop, and access relevant funding streams, and to communicate concerns and needs to appropriate parties impedes the development of this industry to its full potential.

Texas wines are gaining recognition through state, national, and international competitions, and there are a number of state and federal programs and funding streams that could be accessed to facilitate the further growth of the Texas wine industry.

It would be most beneficial to make certain that relevant state agencies are aware of the potential value of the industry and its needs.

There are occasions on which agencies of the state and state institutions of higher education organize, sponsor, or fund events where alcoholic beverages are served.

If it is the policy of this state to support the Texas wine industry, it is only logical that Texas wines be included at state-sponsored events and in state-operated facilities where other alcoholic beverages are already served.

RESOLVED

That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby recognize the importance of the emerging Texas wine industry and request of all relevant agencies of the state and institutions of higher education their best effort to recognize and secure, from the federal government or other appropriate sources, any funding or other assistance that might be available to support the protection and growth of the Texas wine industry.

That the service of Texas wines be included at all state dinners, meetings, conferences, and other events and in all state or university facilities where wine or other alcoholic beverages are served.