

By: Madla, Estes

S.C.R. No. 17

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In recognition of both the direct and indirect revenues that could be generated for the state by a robust wine industry, Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst charged the Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 industry is positioned to boom within the next five to 10 years; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

1 WHEREAS, It has been shown by the world's major wine
2 producing regions that investment in education and research creates
3 an unparalleled advantage; and

4 WHEREAS, Expansion of the Texas wine industry will require an
5 influx of professional talent and expertise, particularly in the
6 specialized fields of wine production and vineyard development; and

7 WHEREAS, Nationwide, only universities in California and
8 Washington offer four-year undergraduate degree programs in
9 viticulture or enology; and

10 WHEREAS, Testimony at the October 6, 2004, hearing of the
11 Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Relations indicated that
12 there are individuals and organizations ready, willing, and able to
13 assist with the development of viticulture and enology education
14 but that there is no specific undergraduate or graduate degree
15 program in which to vest their support; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby respectfully encourage Texas A&M University, Texas Tech
18 University, Grayson County College T. V. Munson Viticulture and
19 Enology Center, and other Texas institutions of higher education
20 offering education and research opportunities in viticulture and
21 enology to collaborate to develop a world-class education and
22 research program within the State of Texas; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the efforts of this collaboration be reported
24 to the members of the legislature not later than the opening day of
25 the 80th Legislative Session; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward an
27 official copy of this resolution to the chairman of the Texas Higher

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1 Education Coordinating Board.