

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, Lt. 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 producing 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 producing 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 producing industry could prove to be a stellar economic generator for the state of Texas; with the proper policies in place, the Texas wine producing industry is positioned to boom within the next 5 to 10 years; although progress has been made throughout the years, insufficient funding and budget reductions for new and existing education, training, and research hinder the development of the industry; and the lack of a consistent, coordinated, and centralized effort among industry stakeholders and public policy makers to develop appropriate programs and policies; explore, develop and access relevant funding streams; and communicate concerns and needs to appropriate parties impedes the development

1 of this industry to its full potential; and

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

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

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

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

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

25 RESOLVED, That the efforts of this collaboration be reported
26 to the members of Legislature no later than the opening day of the
27 80th Legislative Session.