

By: Madla, Estes

S.C.R. No. 18

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Two independent studies have recently confirmed the
2 genetic origin of the glassy-winged sharpshooter in Texas; this
3 finding makes Texas a natural laboratory for the study of Pierce's
4 disease and its vector, the glassy-winged sharpshooter, which
5 impact the viability of grape and wine industries throughout the
6 nation, and the dedication of new revenues to this research would
7 facilitate research of benefit to all wine-producing states; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition, there are a number of federal programs
9 and funding streams that could be accessed to promote the Texas wine
10 industry, and alerting the Texas congressional delegation to the
11 potential value of the Texas wine industry and its needs would
12 greatly benefit the industry and the entire state; now, therefore,
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby respectfully request the members of the Texas delegation to
16 the United States Congress to recognize the importance of the
17 emerging Texas wine industry and to work to secure funding and other
18 assistance available at the federal level to support the protection
19 and growth of the Texas wine industry; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the legislature hereby respectfully request
21 the members of the Texas delegation to the United States Congress to
22 specifically seek funds in the amount of \$2 million for each year of
23 the following five-year period for grant funding through the United
24 States Department of Agriculture and the Animal Plant and Health
25 Inspection Service to conduct Pierce's disease research in Texas;
26 and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official

S.C.R. No. 18

1 copies of this resolution to all the members of the Texas delegation
2 to the Congress of the United States of America.