

1 S.110

2 Introduced by Senator Pollina

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Agriculture; taxation; Vermont Grape and Wine Council

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the  
7 Vermont Grape and Wine Council and to establish the Vermont Grape and  
8 Wine Fund.

9 An act relating to the Vermont Grape and Wine Council

10 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11 Sec. 1. REPEAL

12 2007 Acts and Resolves No. 38, Sec. 19 (the Vermont Grape and Wine  
13 Council) is repealed.

14 Sec. 2. 6 V.S.A. chapter 217 is added to read:

15 CHAPTER 217. VERMONT GRAPE AND WINE COUNCIL

16 § 5011. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE VERMONT GRAPE AND WINE

17 COUNCIL

18 (a) There is established a Vermont Grape and Wine Council. The Council  
19 shall have all necessary support from the professional, legal, and  
20 administrative staff of the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. The

1 Council shall include representatives of grape growers; wine producers; the  
2 University of Vermont extension program; the University of Vermont College  
3 of Agriculture and Life Sciences; the Agency of Agriculture, Food and  
4 Markets; the Department of Economic Development; the Department of  
5 Tourism and Marketing; and the Hospitality Council of the Vermont Chamber  
6 of Commerce.

7 (b) The Vermont Grape and Wine Council shall:

8 (1) provide long-term support to the emerging grape and wine industries  
9 in Vermont by providing services, including research and education;

10 (2) explore mechanisms such as grants and dues from its institutional  
11 members for funding activities;

12 (3) collaborate with the Department of Labor in order to seek workforce  
13 development funding; and

14 (4) foster the development of partnerships among all parties interested in  
15 the emerging grape and wine industry.

16 § 5012. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE VERMONT GRAPE AND WINE

17 COUNCIL

18 (a) The Council shall promote grape, fruit and honey production, and the  
19 winemaking industry in Vermont to diversify the agricultural economy,

20 increase wine-related tourism, and create employment throughout the grape

21 and wine industry. The Council may employ staff and make employment

1 decisions on a best interest basis. The Council may publish and distribute  
2 information related to wine and fruit production.

3 (b) The Council shall keep accurate records and accounts showing the  
4 amount of money received and expenditures by the Council, and shall provide  
5 a comprehensive annual report to the House Committee on Agriculture and  
6 Forest Products, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, and the Governor's  
7 Office. The report shall be submitted annually on or before January 15.

8 (c) The Council is authorized to accept contributions from individuals or  
9 organizations. All receipts shall be deposited into the Vermont Grape and  
10 Wine Fund.

11 (d) The Council shall cooperate with State agencies in its plans for  
12 advertisement, promotion, and education and, in particular, with agencies  
13 empowered to advertise and promote the State of Vermont.

14 (e) The Council may cooperate and enter into agreements with the U.S.  
15 Government and agencies charged with similar responsibilities in connection  
16 with research, marketing, and education in the grape and wine industry. The  
17 Council may cooperate and enter into agreements with agencies of other states  
18 for the purpose of investigations and securing and transmitting information to  
19 facilitate the administration of this chapter.

1     § 5013. VERMONT GRAPE AND WINE FUND

2             There is established a special fund pursuant to 32 V.S.A. chapter 7,  
3     subchapter 6 comprising revenues from 10 percent of the tax paid on vinous  
4     beverages and any other donations, grants, or proceeds on behalf of the  
5     Vermont Grape and Wine Council. Monies in the fund shall be available to the  
6     Vermont Grape and Wine Council for the purpose, powers, and duties as  
7     described in this chapter.

8     Sec. 3. 7 V.S.A. § 421 is amended to read:

9     § 421. TAX ON MALT AND VINOUS BEVERAGES

10                             \* \* \*

11             (g) For the purpose of providing revenue to encourage the grape and wine  
12     industry of Vermont, the Treasurer shall annually credit the Vermont Grape  
13     and Wine Fund 10 percent of the tax paid on all vinous beverages under  
14     subsection (a) of this section.

15     Sec. 4. 32 V.S.A. § 435 is amended to read:

16     § 435. GENERAL FUND

17             (a) There is established a General Fund which shall be the basic operating  
18     fund of the State. The General Fund shall be used to finance all expenditures  
19     for which no special revenues have otherwise been provided by law.

20             (b) The General Fund shall be composed of revenues from the following  
21     sources:

1           (1) Alcoholic beverage tax levied pursuant to 7 V.S.A. chapter 15;  
2           except for 10 percent of tax paid on all vinous beverages under 7 V.S.A.  
3           § 421(a), which instead shall be credited to the Vermont Grape and Wine  
4           Fund;

5   \* \* \*

6           Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

7           This act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.