

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 565

(Senator Munson)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Environmental Matters

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Agriculture - Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing

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This bill abolishes the Maryland Winery and Grape Growers' Advisory Board and establishes a nine-member Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing in its place. The bill provides for: (1) commission membership; (2) terms of membership; (3) appointment of specified members by the Governor; (4) procedures of the commission; and (5) duties and powers of the commission. Finally, the bill requires the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) to provide staff support for the commission and repeals specified powers and duties of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2005.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for commission members and staffing costs for MDA are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** Pursuant to the bill the commission is required to: (1) advise and recommend to the Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Council the allocation of funds from the Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund to projects regarding viticultural and enological practices and promotion, marketing, and education programs deemed

necessary or advisable; (2) provide a forum to address issues relevant to wineries and grape growers; (3) identify strategies to facilitate growth of viticulture of the State; (4) study the policies of the wine and grape industries of other states and identify which, if any, policies should be adopted in Maryland; and (5) issue an annual report to the Governor on its findings and recommendations.

**Current Law:** The Maryland Winery and Grape Growers' Advisory Board is a nine-member board responsible for advising and recommending to the Secretary of Agriculture the allocation of funds to projects regarding viticultural and enological practices and promotion, marketing, and education programs deemed necessary or advisable and evaluating the funding options available to the wine industry.

**Background:** Maryland has 15 wineries and may soon have additional wineries. Sales of Maryland wine increased in recent years. Gallonage increased by 13.18% between fiscal 2003 and 2004.

**State Fiscal Effect:** The bill replaces the Maryland Winery and Grape Growers' Advisory Board with the Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing. MDA has provided secretarial and staff support for the existing board since its inception and would provide similar support for the commission.

Changing the composition and title of this advisory body will not have an operational impact on MDA.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2005  
mll/ljm Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 5, 2005

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