

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 839

(Delegates Stifler and Norman)

Environmental Matters

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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

This bill adds a member to the Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing. The member must be a representative of the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED).

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's change is expected to be handled within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Governor's Advisory Commission on Maryland Wine and Grape Growing, established in 2005, consists of nine members:

- two representing wineries of the State;
- two representing grape growers of the State;
- one representative of the Office of the Comptroller;
- one representative of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Maryland;
- one member of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of the House;

- one member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate; and
- one representative of the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The Governor appoints the appointed members and designates the chair. Members serve three-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Commission members do not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses. MDA provides staff support for the commission.

The commission's responsibilities are to:

- advise and recommend to the Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Council the allocation of funds from the Maryland Wine and Grape Promotion Fund to specified types of wine- and grape-related projects and programs;
- provide a forum to address issues relevant to wineries and grape growers;
- identify strategies to facilitate growth of viticulture of the State;
- study the policies of the wine and grape industries of other states and identify which, if any, policies should be adopted by the wine and grape industry of this State; and
- issue an annual report to the Governor on the commission's findings and recommendations.

Background: MDA advises that the commission meets at least three times a year.

DBED develops and implements programs that aim to generate new jobs or retain existing jobs, attract business investment in new or expanding companies, and promote the State's strategic assets. The department's primary goals are to increase business investment in Maryland; enhance business success and the competitiveness of businesses in their distinct markets; and develop a diverse economic base and ensure that all jurisdictions share in the State's economic vitality.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 756 (Senator Young, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Business and Economic Development, Department of Legislative Services

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