



Rep. Charles Meier

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10400HB2207ham001

LRB104 11677 HLH 25211 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2207

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 2207 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Illinois Grape and Wine Industry Act.

6 Section 5. Findings and purpose.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) The Illinois grape and wine industry is a vital
9 component of this State's agricultural economy,
10 contributing significantly to job creation, tourism, and
11 rural development.

12 (2) Grapes are the highest value specialty crop in the
13 United States.

14 (3) The Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance,
15 established in 1992, has played a pivotal role in
16 supporting the growth and sustainability of the industry

1 through research, education, marketing, and operational
2 initiatives.

3 (4) The Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance
4 represents stakeholders across this State through its
5 Board of Directors, which ensures equitable statewide
6 representation from the 4 distinct regions of Illinois.

7 (5) To ensure the retention and expansion of the
8 Illinois grape and wine industry, additional funding is
9 necessary to support these critical activities.

10 (b) The purpose of this Act is to establish a dedicated
11 funding mechanism to provide financial support for the
12 Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance's efforts in
13 promoting and sustaining the Illinois grape and wine industry.

14 Section 10. Funding mechanism.

15 (a) An annual appropriation equal to \$0.50 per gallon of
16 wine reported and paid by wine manufacturers in this State
17 under the excise tax rate set forth by law shall be directed to
18 the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance.

19 The allocation shall apply exclusively to excise taxes
20 collected from wine manufacturers in this State as reported on
21 Form RL-26 or a successor form prescribed by the Department of
22 Revenue.

23 (b) All funds appropriated under this Section shall be
24 used by the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance for
25 the following purposes:

1 (1) research initiatives aimed at improving grape
2 cultivation, wine making processes, and sustainability
3 practices;

4 (2) educational programs for grape growers,
5 winemakers, and industry stakeholders;

6 (3) marketing campaigns to promote Illinois wines
7 locally, nationally, and internationally; and

8 (4) operational expenses necessary for the Illinois
9 Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance to effectively execute
10 its mission of supporting industry retention and
11 expansion.

12 (c) The first allocation of funds shall be calculated
13 based on excise taxes reported by wine manufacturers in this
14 State over the immediately preceding 12-month period before
15 the effective date of this Act. The Department of Revenue
16 shall certify the allocation amount no later than 90 days
17 after the enactment for appropriation to the Illinois Grape
18 Growers and Vintners Alliance.

19 (d) For subsequent years, the Department of Revenue shall
20 calculate on an annual basis the total gallons reported by
21 wine manufacturers in this State on Form RL-26 or its
22 successor form for the preceding calendar year. The Department
23 of Revenue shall certify the corresponding allocation amount
24 at \$0.50 per gallon for appropriation to the Illinois Grape
25 Growers and Vintners Alliance no later than March 31 each
26 year.

1 (e) The Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance shall
2 submit an annual report to the Department of Agriculture
3 detailing the use of funds appropriated under this Act. The
4 report shall include:

- 5 (1) a summary of research projects conducted;
- 6 (2) educational programs delivered;
- 7 (3) marketing activities undertaken;
- 8 (4) operational expenditures incurred; and
- 9 (5) measurable outcomes achieved in supporting the
10 grape and wine industry in this State.

11 Section 15. Governance and representation.

12 (a) The Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance Board
13 of Directors shall maintain statewide representation through a
14 balanced structure that ensures equitable participation from
15 all regions of this State.

16 (b) The Board shall consist of 12 members who represent
17 the 4 geographic regions of this State as follows:

- 18 (1) 3 representatives of the North region;
- 19 (2) 3 representatives of the Central region;
- 20 (3) 3 representatives of the South Central region;
- 21 (4) 3 representatives of the South region.

22 (c) The Board members shall be selected in accordance with
23 the Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance's bylaws to
24 ensure fair representation of grape growers, winemakers, and
25 other stakeholders throughout this State.

1 Section 20. Administration.

2 (a) The Department of Revenue shall oversee calculations
3 related to gallons reported by wine manufacturers in this
4 State under Form RL-26 or its successor form.

5 (b) The Department of Agriculture shall administer the
6 disbursement of funds appropriated under this Act to the
7 Illinois Grape Growers and Vintners Alliance in accordance
8 with the laws of this State.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
10 becoming law.".