

HB 648 -- Missouri Wine and Grape Board

Sponsor: Loehner

This bill establishes the Missouri Wine and Grape Board to promote the growth and development of the grape-growing industry in Missouri. The 11-member board will consist of seven current members of the Missouri Wine and Grape Advisory Board and four ex officio members, including the president of the Missouri Grape Growers Association, the president of the Missouri Vintners Association, the president of the Missouri Wine Marketing and Research Council, and the Director of the Department of Agriculture. All board members including the ex officio members will be voting members. The appointment, terms, meeting requirements, powers, and duties of the board are specified in the bill. An executive director will be hired to administer, manage, and direct the affairs of the board.

The Missouri Wine and Grape Fund is created for the deposit of moneys that currently are credited to the Marketing Development Fund. The moneys in the fund will be used exclusively for the research and advisement of grapes and grape products in Missouri.