



Phil Mullin

Bill Analysis

Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 131

124th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Redfern, Barnes, Seitz, Distel, Metelsky, Hartnett, Boccieri, Ford, S. Smith, Barrett

BILL SUMMARY

- Adds a General Assembly member to the Ohio Grape Industries Committee.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Existing law

Current law creates the Ohio Grape Industries Committee, consisting of nine members. The Director of Agriculture appoints five of the members, who must satisfy certain qualifications. The Directors of Agriculture and Liquor Control (see **COMMENT**), or their designees, the Chief of the Division of Markets of the Department of Agriculture, and the Viticulture Extension Specialist of the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center also are members. (Sec. 924.51(A).) Current law requires the Committee to promote the sale of grapes and grape products in order (1) to maintain and expand present markets and create new and larger intrastate, interstate, and foreign markets for them and (2) to inform the public of their uses and benefits (sec. 924.52(B), not in the bill).

Changes proposed by the bill

The bill adds a tenth member to the Committee by adding a member of the General Assembly, whom the House Speaker and Senate President must jointly appoint (sec. 924.51(A)). The term of this Committee member generally will begin on January 1 in each odd-numbered year and end on December 31 of the following even-numbered year, and the member will continue in office until the end of the term even if the member ceases to be a General Assembly member (sec. 924.51(B)(2)). The bill, however, requires the House Speaker and Senate President to appoint a General Assembly member to an initial term on the Committee not later than 30 days after the bill's effective date, to hold office for a term ending on December 31, 2002 (Section 3).

The bill further provides that serving as an appointed Committee member does not constitute (1) the holding of a public office or position of employment under Ohio law or (2) grounds for removal of public officers or employees from their offices or positions of employment (sec. 924.51(C)).

COMMENT

Although current law refers to the "Director of Liquor Control" being a member of the Ohio Grape Industries Committee, the office of Director of Liquor Control and the agency formerly known as the Department of Liquor Control were both abolished in July 1997. The agency is now known as the *Division of Liquor Control* within the Department of Commerce and is headed by the *Superintendent of Liquor Control*.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	02-27-01	p. 188

h0131-i.124/kl