

Date of Hearing: March 26, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Esmeralda Soria, Chair
AB 482 (Solache) – As Introduced February 10, 2025

SUBJECT: California Table Grape Commission

SUMMARY: This bill would update and revise many provisions in the California Table Grape Commission (CTGC) by, changing the membership of CTGC from 21 to 18 grape producers and a public member. Require the CGTC to annually compile and maintain a list of eligible producers who are qualified to vote in an election, expand the activities, powers, and duties of the commission to also include accepting and matching contributions of funds and making contributions of commission funds to other persons or agencies, and administering any program related to the table grape industry. Increases the maximum amount of the assessment to \$0.02 per pound, and would make numerous changes that technical, conforming and/or outdated. Specifically, *this bill*:

- 1) Changes the membership of CTGC from 21 to 18 grape producers and a public member, with each CTGC district having three grape producers from each district.
- 2) Allows the CTGC board to change the CTGC's districts with a two-thirds vote.
- 3) Allows the CTGC to accept and match contributions of private, local, state, or federal funds and make contributions of commission funds to other persons or local, state, or federal agencies for purposes of promoting, enhancing, and maintaining the California fresh grape industry.
- 4) Allows the CTGC to cooperate with other private or governmental entities in the resolution of emergencies arising in the industry and impacting the health and safety of the public or the continued stability of the table grape industry.
- 5) Changes the maximum assessment from \$0.006522 per pound to \$0.02 per pound, as specified.
- 6) Makes numerous technical and conforming changes.
- 7) Deletes outdated language.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Creates the CTGC, which comprises 21 grape producers and 1 public member appointed by the Secretary of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). (*Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) 65550*)
- 2) Specifies the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the commission. (*FAC 65552*)
- 3) Levies an annual assessment on all fresh grapes during each marketing assessment, at an amount fixed by the commission not to exceed \$0.006522 per pound. (*FAC 65600*)

- 4) Authorizes the commission to expend revenues from those assessments and all other moneys received by the commission, including from penalties for failing to pay the assessment and civil penalties for a violation of those provisions. (FAC 55722)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

The California Table Grape Commission was established by an act of the state legislature in 1967. Approved by a grower referendum in 1968, the commission has been affirmed through grower referenda every five years since its inception. The purpose of the commission is to maintain and expand markets for fresh California grapes and to create new and larger intrastate, interstate, and foreign markets.

This bill seeks to update and modernize the CTGC, most of which has not been amended since its inception. The bill also seeks to increase the cap on assessments, which are set by the industry elected CTGC Board. The cap has not been adjusted since 1982. The bill does not increase the assessment, as that responsibility will continue to fall to the CTGC board.

According to the author, "Since 1967, the [CTGC] has represented the interests of the California Table Grape industry, which today represents more than \$2 billion in economic activity for our State. It is my privilege to work with the CTGT to update and modernize its law, in a manner that will allow it to continue its important work well into the future."

The purpose of marketing programs are to provide agricultural producers and handlers an organizational structure, operating under government sanction, which allows them to solve production and marketing problems collectively that could not be addressed individually. Current marketing programs' activities include commodity promotion, research, and maintenance of quality standards.

Commissions provide a structure for solving problems while also providing a vehicle for collecting funds to support activities. Current commissions and marketing orders have been successful in expanding markets, improving product quality, and providing more research for pests and disease prevention.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Table Grape Commission

Opposition

None on file.

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