

SENATE, No. 3337

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Directs Secretary of Higher Education to establish Wine and Grape Education Grant Program; appropriates \$1.5 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a grant program to provide opportunities for
2 education in the wine and grape industry at four-year public
3 institutions of higher education and making an appropriation.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. a. The Secretary of Higher Education shall establish a four-
9 year "Wine and Grape Education Grant Program." The program
10 shall provide grants to four-year public institutions of higher
11 education to establish or expand degree-granting or certificate
12 programs in wine and grape science including grape growing, wine
13 making, and business operations.

14 b. The secretary shall determine the allowable uses for grant
15 funds prior to accepting applications to participate in the grant
16 program and shall describe the allowable uses in a notice of grant
17 opportunity.

18 c. A four-year public institution of higher education that wants
19 to participate in the grant program shall submit an application to the
20 secretary in a form and manner prescribed by the secretary. The
21 application shall include:

22 (1) the institution's plan for the establishment or expansion of
23 wine and grape education programs;

24 (2) the institution's plan to ensure students attain real-world
25 knowledge and experience in the wine and grape industry including,
26 but not limited to, the availability of partnerships with nonprofit
27 organizations and local wineries;

28 (3) the number of students able to be supported by the grant
29 funding and the number of students expected to participate; and

30 (4) any other information the secretary deems necessary.

31 d. After reviewing the applications submitted pursuant to
32 subsection c. of this section, the secretary shall select three four-
33 year public institutions of higher education to participate in the
34 grant program. The three institutions selected by the secretary shall
35 include one institution in each of the southern, central, and northern
36 regions of the State. The secretary shall award a grant in an amount
37 not to exceed \$500,000 to each grant recipient.

38 e. In addition to the funds appropriated to the program pursuant
39 to section 3 of this act, the secretary may accept and allocate funds
40 made available to the program by contribution, gift, donation, or
41 any other sources for the purpose of the program.

42
43 2. a. A four-year public institution of higher education
44 receiving a grant under the Wine and Grape Education Grant
45 Program established pursuant to section 1 of this act may permit a
46 student who is under the age of 21 to enroll in a degree-granting or
47 certificate program in wine and grape science provided that the
48 student shall not be permitted to enroll in any coursework or attend

1 any event where alcoholic beverages are to be consumed or where
2 the student would otherwise be required to be 21 years of age in
3 accordance with any other law, rule, or regulation.

4 b. As used in this section, "alcoholic beverage" means the same
5 as that term is defined in R.S.33:1-1.

6
7 3. The Secretary of Higher Education shall submit a report to
8 the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
9 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than six months prior to
10 the conclusion of the Wine and Grape Education Grant Program
11 established pursuant to section 1 of this act. The report shall
12 include, but not be limited to, information on the implementation of
13 the grant program, the number of students supported by the grant
14 program, and any recommendations concerning the continuation or
15 expansion of the grant program.

16
17 4. There is appropriated \$1,500,000 from the General Fund to
18 the Secretary of Higher Education for the implementation of the
19 Wine and Grape Education Grant Program established pursuant to
20 section 1 of this act.

21
22 5. This act shall take effect on July 1 next following the date of
23 enactment, except that the Secretary of Higher Education may take
24 any anticipatory action, in advance of the effective date, as may be
25 necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

26
27
28 STATEMENT

29
30 This bill directs the Secretary of Higher Education to establish a
31 four-year Wine and Grape Education Grant Program. The program
32 is to provide grants to four-year public institutions of higher
33 education to establish or expand degree-granting or certificate
34 programs in wine and grape science including grape growing, wine
35 making, and business operations.

36 To be eligible for consideration of a grant award, a four-year
37 public institution of higher education is required to submit an
38 application to the Secretary of Higher Education in a form and
39 manner prescribed by the secretary. A grant application is required
40 to include: the institution's plan for the establishment or expansion
41 of wine and grape education programs; the institution's plan to
42 ensure students attain real-world knowledge and experience in the
43 wine and grape industry including, but not limited to, the
44 availability of partnerships with nonprofit organizations and local
45 wineries; the number of students able to be supported by the grant
46 program and the number of students expected to participate; and
47 any other information the secretary deems necessary.

S3337 TESTA, ZWICKER

4

1 Under the bill, the secretary is to select three four-year public
2 institutions of higher education, including one institution in each of
3 the southern, central, and northern regions of the State, for
4 participation in the grant program. An institution selected to
5 participate is to receive a grant in an amount not to exceed
6 \$500,000.

7 The provisions of the bill stipulate that a four-year public
8 institution of higher education that receives a grant under the
9 program may permit a student who is under the age of 21 to enroll
10 in a degree-granting or certificate program in wine and grape
11 science provided that the student is not to be permitted to enroll in
12 any coursework or attend any event where alcoholic beverages are
13 to be consumed or where the student would otherwise be required to
14 be 21 years of age in accordance with any other law, rule, or
15 regulation.

16 Additionally, the bill requires the secretary to submit a report on
17 the grant program to the Governor and the Legislature no later than
18 six months prior to the conclusion of the program.