

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-114

2
3 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH ARKANSAS
4 GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
5 FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT A STUDY OF THE ARKANSAS NATIVE
6 WINES INCENTIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.

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8 WHEREAS, Arkansas is the oldest and largest grape juice and wine-
9 producing state in the southern United States; and

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11 WHEREAS, grapes were first grown commercially in Arkansas by a colony
12 of German-Swiss immigrants who settled at Altus, Franklin County, in the
13 1870s; and

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15 WHEREAS, there are now wineries in Arkansas with a storage capacity
16 exceeding one million two hundred thousand gallons (1,200,000 gal.); and

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18 WHEREAS, the Arkansas native wines incentive grants program was
19 enacted by Act 681 of 1985; and

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21 WHEREAS, the purposes of the incentive grant program include:

- 22 (1) Reducing unemployment and providing new job opportunities;
23 (2) Providing expanded markets for grapes, fruits, berries, or
24 vegetables produced in Arkansas;
25 (3) Attracting other industries to this state;
26 (4) Providing stability to the marketing of grapes used in the
27 wine industries of this state;
28 (5) Providing relief to Arkansas wineries which must compete
29 with products imported from foreign countries whose producers are receiving
30 direct government subsidies; and
31 (6) Providing relief to the financial community of this state
32 which made investments and loans supporting the growers of grapes, fruits,
33 berries, and vegetables used in the wine industry; and

1 WHEREAS, developing economic, social, and agricultural conditions over
2 the past thirty (30) years are reshaping the wine industries of this state;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the incentive grant program would
6 benefit the wine industries of this state and the state's agricultural
7 economy generally,
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9 NOW THEREFORE,

10 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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13 THAT the Legislative Council of the Ninetieth General Assembly of the
14 State of Arkansas refer to the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and
15 Economic Development a study of the Arkansas Native Wines Incentive Grants
16 Program.
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18 Respectfully submitted,
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22 Representative Charlene Fite
23 District 80
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26 By: MGF/LNS
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