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THIRD READING

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Bill No: AB 482  
Author: Solache (D)  
Amended: 8/20/25 in Senate  
Vote: 21

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SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE: 5-0, 7/1/25  
AYES: Hurtado, Alvarado-Gil, Cortese, McNerney, Padilla

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 7/15/25  
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Arreguín, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Stern, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 74-1, 5/19/25 - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** California Table Grape Commission

**SOURCE:** California Table Grape Commission

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**DIGEST:** This bill revises provisions of the California Table Grape Commission (CTGC) by changing its membership to three producers from each of the seven districts plus one public member appointed by the secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). It requires the CTGC to compile and certify to the secretary, at least 30 days before any meeting to nominate commissioners, a list of eligible producers qualified to vote. This bill authorizes the CTGC to accept and match outside contributions, raises the marketing assessment cap to \$0.02 per pound, clarifies grievance procedures by requiring the CTGC to act within 2 years of discovery, and directs CDFA to post suspension notices on its website. It also makes technical, non-substantive changes.

*Senate Floor Amendments* of 8/20/25 requires CDFA to post on the department's website the suspension of the operation of the California Table Grape Commission.

**ANALYSIS:**

## Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the CTGC in 1967 to promote and expand markets for fresh California table grapes. CTGC is funded by growers through a grower referendum, which is reaffirmed every five years. CTGC was also established to help create new and larger intrastate, interstate, and foreign markets:
  - a) The CTGC is comprised of 21 grape producers and 1 public member appointed by the secretary of CDFA.
- 2) Levies an annual assessment on all fresh grapes during each marketing assessment, not to exceed \$0.006522 per pound.
- 3) Establishes an appeals process to filing a grievance by which a person may appeal to the secretary of CDFA who reviews the findings of the CTGC and either affirms or reverses the action taken by the CTGC.
- 4) States the members of the CTGC shall be natural persons, each of whom shall be a citizen and resident of this state over the age of 25 years, and each of whom, as an individual, partner or employee of a producer or producers, is and has been actively engaged in growing fresh grapes within this state for a period of at least five years and is producing grapes subject to the provisions of this chapter at the time of the election.
- 5) States the no more than two members shall be persons employed by, or connected in a proprietary capacity with, the same corporation, firm, partnership, association or business organization; provided further, that not more than one member in any one district shall be so employed or connected.
- 6) Requires CDFA to post a notice of suspension of operation of the CTGC on a public bulletin board, to be maintained by the secretary in their office, and publish a copy of the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in each district upon the suspension of the CTGC. Additionally, the CTGC emails a copy of the notice of suspension to all producers and shippers affected by the suspension whose names and addresses are on file with the CTGC.

This bill:

- 1) Specifies the CTGC is comprised of three producers from each district appointed by the secretary plus one public member appointed by the secretary from nominees recommended by the CTGC, pursuant to section 65575.1 of the Food and Agricultural Code.
- 2) Requires the CTGC to annually compile and maintain a list of eligible producers and certify the list to the secretary at least 30 days before the date set for a meeting to nominate commissioners to office:
  - a) The list shall constitute a list of producers qualified to vote in the election of the commissioners.
- 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) Increases the cap on the assessment not to exceed \$0.02 per pound.
- 5) Allows a person aggrieved by an action of the CTGC to file a grievance with the Commission or a duly authorized committee of the Commission designated for that purpose:
  - a) Allows an appeal from a decision of the Commission to be made to the secretary of CDFA.
  - b) Requires the Commission to act on a grievance within two years from the date of the act of which the person complains.
- 6) States a commissioner shall be an individual producer, or a partner or employee of a producer, who is actively engaged in growing fresh grapes within this state for a period of at least five years and is producing grapes subject to this chapter at the time of the election.
- 7) Requires CDFA to post to the department's website the suspension of the operation of the CTGC in lieu of posting on a public bulletin board and publishing it in the newspaper.

8) Makes technical, non-substantive changes.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: Yes Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

This bill passed out of the Senate Committee on Appropriations pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/21/25)

California Table Grape Commission (source)

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/21/25)

None received

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT:** According to the author:

“Since 1967, the California Table Grape Commission 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 Commission to update and modernize its law, in a manner that will allow it to continue its important work well into the future.”

The California Table Grape Commission writes as the sponsor of the bill stating the law has only been amended once, in 1982, and needs to be updated to be more consistent with the policies and practices adopted by the legislature since 1982. Additionally, the bill increases the maximum authorized assessment cap, but does not increase the assessment as that will “continue to fall to the grower-elected, Secretary-appointed commissioners.” Finally the Commission states that the bill provides an important platform to allow growers to continue their efforts to remain economically viable.

**ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION:**

None received

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR:** 74-1, 5/19/25

**AYES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong,

Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NOES: DeMaio

NO VOTE RECORDED: Dixon, Flora, Jeff Gonzalez, Papan

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8/21/25 16:45:25

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