



**Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006**  
**Committee Statement**  
**LB 964**

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**Hearing Date:** January 24, 2006  
**Committee On:** Agriculture

**Introducer(s):** (Price)

**Title:** Rename and change provisions relating to the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board

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**Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:**

- Advanced to General File
  - Advanced to General File with Amendments
  - X Indefinitely Postponed
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**Vote Results:**

7	Yes	Burling, Cunningham, Erdman, Fischer, Kremer, Preister, Wehrbein
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Chambers

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**Proponents:**  
 Senator Marian Price  
 John Fishbach

**Representing:**  
 Introducer  
 Nebraska Winery & Grape Growers Association  
 and Self

**Opponents:**  
 David Hanna

**Representing:**  
 Nebraska Winery & Grape Growers Association

**Neutral:**  
 None

**Representing:**

**Summary of purpose and/or changes:**

LB 964 changes the name and membership on the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board. LB 964 would make the following specific changes:

- Amends §53-301 [Section 1] to provide that on and after the effective date of the bill, the Nebraska Grape and Winery Board is to be known as the Nebraska Wine and Grape Promotional Board. Conforming internal citation due to the name change are made throughout the bill. Membership on the Board is expanded to seven members specified as follows:

- One commercial grape grower
  - One commercial winery owner
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One member of an association of restaurant owners  
One professional in the travel and tourism industry  
One member of an association of bed and breakfast establishments  
One professional researcher in viticulture or enology  
One at large member.

The new text carries forth the specification under current law that at least two members be members of the Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association and the ex-officio, non-voting membership of the Director of Agriculture and the Vice-Chancellor of IANR. The bill specifies that current members of the board shall continue to serve until their terms expire.

- Minor substantive changes in addition to internal reference harmonization due to the name change are made elsewhere as follows:
  - Revisions to §53-302 require the Board to meet at least every four months rather than every six months. This section currently specifies each member shall serve a term of three years but does not limit the number of terms. LB 964 would limit members to serving no more than two consecutive terms.
  - Revisions to §53-303 would specify that a public forum providing opportunity for producers to address the board required under current law shall be a meeting separate from the regular board meetings.
  - Revisions to §53-304 recreate the Winery and Grape Producers Promotional Fund as the Wine and Grape Promotional Fund and provide for transfer of funds to the newly created fund.

**Explanation of amendments, if any:**

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**Senator Bob Kremer, Chairperson**