



Ohio Sunset Review Committee  
Agency Questionnaire

Agency Name Ohio Dept. of Agriculture - Ohio Grape Industries Committee

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Agency's primary purpose and its various goals and objectives

The Ohio Grape Industries Committee (OGIC) was established by the General Assembly in 1981 pursuant to ORC provisions 924.51 through ORC 924.55. The committee is a non-regulatory advisory board mandated to create viable, income-producing grape enterprises in the state of Ohio. It accomplishes this mandate by providing marketing and promotion efforts to generate and expand markets for grapes and grape products and by contracting for extension and research to improve both the quality of grape products and the profitability of grape growing as an agri-business. There are currently 1,500 acres of vineyards and 320 licensed wine manufacturers in the state, which is nearly a twenty percent increase in the last four years.

Composition of the Ohio Grape Industries Committee includes the following nine members:

- Chair, Director of Ohio Department of Agriculture or designee
- Superintendent of Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control, or designee
- Chief of Marketing Division, Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Five members appointed by the Director of Agriculture. Each must earn a major part of his/her income from production of grapes or grape products and may serve not more than two consecutive three-year terms
- State Viticulture Extension Specialist (non-voting member)

The Ohio Grape Industries Committee operates to provide Ohio's grape and wine industry with marketing, extension and research programs that will help to increase production and sales of Ohio grape and grape products including wine, thus creating viable, income-producing grape enterprises and creating more jobs for Ohio's economy. The Committee assures this critical goal is achieved through marketing programs such as the Cooperative Advertising program for wineries, Cooperative Digital Advertising Program, Cost Share Road Signage Program, as well as providing point-of-purchase materials such as the annual SIP magazine, pull-up display banners, posters, wine guides, etc. for wineries and retailers. More than 2.1 million consumers visit Ohio wineries per year and programs such as these, help keep Ohio wines in the forefront of the travel and tourism industry in Ohio. The industry provides more than \$6.6 billion in economic impact annually, as well as provides more than 41,000 full-time jobs for the state. The Committee also invests heavily in research to help advance Ohio's grape and wine industry in the areas of viticulture (grape growing), enology (winemaking), plant pathology, and entomology. As the industry continues to grow, this research is very valuable to Ohio producers for them to produce high-quality, high-value wine grapes and wines.

Director of Agriculture relies extensively on recommendations from all segments of the grape and wine industry when making appointments to the Committee. Committee members represent a broad spectrum of the industry both in size and scope of their operations as well as their location within the state. They are individuals that know the industry and can provide valuable business insight and technical advice. The Committee members are very valuable in helping set priorities and creating programs that allow the Ohio Grape Industries to meet its statutory mandate.

Agency's past and anticipated workload, number of staff required to complete workload, and total number of staff

The Committee has one full-time employee, a Marketing Specialist and a 50 percent FTE employee, an Executive Director. On a per meeting basis, the Executive Director spends approximately eight to ten hours preparing and working the OGIC meetings, while the Marketing Specialist spends about five to seven hours.

Agency's past and anticipated budgets and its sources of funding

Funding for the Ohio Grape Industries Committee is established in ORC 4301.43 (B), ORC 4301.43(D), and ORC 4301.432 with a portion the tax collected on all wine sold in the state of Ohio. Currently the Ohio Grape Industries receives 5-cents per gallon on the sale of wines.

All funds are deposited by the treasurer of state in the Ohio Grape Industries Fund established by ORC 924.54(A).

OGIC's spending authority for AGR Fund 4960, Line item 700626 is \$1.55 million for Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025.

Number of members of its governing board or other governing entity and their compensation, if any

All members of the Committee are entitled to their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members, payable from moneys received from the Ohio Grape Industries Fund created under Section 924.54 of the Revised Code. The Committee meets five times per year and the total amount budgeted for Committee member reimbursement in FY24 is \$5,000. The Committee members receive no additional compensation. The reimbursement provided the members for their expenses are minimal and definitely more than offset by the technical expertise provided by the members.

Additional notes

The Ohio Department of Agriculture is respectfully asking for re-authorization of Ohio Grape Industries Committee.