



Put In Your 2¢ Worth...
**About 2¢ a drink yields \$44 million annually
to reduce the impact of
alcohol problems in Missouri.**

Question:

Which of the following statements are true?

1. All of the revenue generated by the state wine excise charge goes directly into the state's General Revenue Fund.
2. The excise charges on wine, like those of beer and distilled spirits, have not been increased since 1971.

Answer:

Both statements are false. As a result of increases enacted in 1983 and 2002, a surcharge of 12 cents on each gallon of wine produced in or imported into the state goes directly into a separate account in the Marketing Development Fund, to be used exclusively by the Missouri Dept. of Agriculture (*Section 262.035, RSMo*).

MISSOURI ALCOHOL IMPACT FACT #2

Earmarking (dedication) of excise charges “for the privilege of selling wine” in Missouri is an example of special-purpose use of state revenue. In 1983, the legislature passed legislation which set aside 6 cents per gallon to be deposited into the Marketing Development Fund. In 2002, the legislature passed a bill which earmarked an additional six cents for that fund. The money is targeted for use by the Dept. of Agriculture’s Grape and Wine Program in research, development, promotion, marketing, and advisory services.

The two bills, plus two others which supported the earmarking, had strong bi-partisan support in both House and Senate, and were signed into law by Governors Bond, Ashcroft, Carnahan and Holden. Missouri’s Alcohol Impact Coalition notes the precedent for earmarking. The Coalition believes that an even stronger case can be made for an additional surcharge on the wine excise, for the purpose of reducing alcohol-related problems that have well-documented harmful effects on productivity, health care, social services, criminal justice, public safety, education, and many other aspects of life in both the public and private sectors. Missouri’s families and communities need help to deal with these serious problems, and General Revenue is in short supply.

***For more information call one of the
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