

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4037

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 19, 2022

The Assembly Agriculture and Food Security Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4037.

This bill would reinstate the pilot program authorizing special occasion events at wineries on preserved farmland for two years following the date this bill is enacted into law. This bill would also provide for this continuation of the pilot program to be retroactive to May 30, 2020.

Under existing law, special occasion events had been authorized to be conducted at wineries on preserved farmland as part of a pilot program that expired on May 30, 2020. The pilot program was originally created by P.L.2014, c.16 (C.4:1C-32.7 et seq.). It was established for 44 months and was scheduled to expire on March 1, 2018. The pilot program was extended for two additional years by the enactment of P.L.2018, c.30 (C.4:1C-32.12 et seq.). The 2018 law extending the pilot program was effective on May 30, 2018, and was made retroactive to March 1, 2018.

This bill would require a county agriculture development board (CADB) to prepare and submit annual reports, and the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) to prepare and submit an interim and final report concerning the pilot program. The SADC's interim and final reports would include the findings and recommendations of the CADBs' annual reports required to be submitted under the pilot program, and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to amend, extend, or make permanent the program. The interim report would be submitted within 30 days after this bill's enactment into law, and the final report would be submitted at least 45 days before expiration of the extended pilot program.

This bill leaves unchanged the provision in the 2018 law extending the program which specifies that the reinstated pilot program does not apply to any special occasion event at a winery that is not on preserved farmland and prohibits the SADC from having any authority to regulate or restrict any special occasion event conducted at a winery beyond the scope of the authority granted pursuant to the law establishing the pilot program.

The bill would take effect immediately upon enactment into law.