

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT-IRELAND TRADE
COMMISSION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission, which shall be part of the
3 Legislative Department.

4 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

5 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

6 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

7 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
8 Representatives;

9 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

10 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
11 Representatives;

12 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

13 (7) Two members of the joint standing committee of the General
14 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, one of
15 whom shall be appointed by the Senate chairperson of such committee
16 and one of whom shall be appointed by the House chairperson of such
17 committee;

18 (8) Five persons appointed by the Governor;

19 (9) A representative of a public institution of higher education in the
20 state, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

21 (10) A representative of a chamber of commerce in the state, who shall
22 be appointed by the Governor; and

23 (11) Two representatives of Irish-American communities in the state,
24 who shall be appointed by the Governor and shall not be members of
25 the same political party.

26 (c) The members of the commission shall each have current or past
27 involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or are interested
28 in the well-being of trade relations between the state and Ireland.

29 (d) Any member of the commission appointed under subdivisions (1)
30 to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
31 General Assembly.

32 (e) (1) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not
33 later than October 1, 2024. Initial appointments made by the Governor,
34 the majority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority
35 leader of the House of Representatives shall terminate on September 30,
36 2027. Initial appointments made by the speaker of the House of
37 Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority
38 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall terminate
39 on September 30, 2028. The initial and subsequent terms of members
40 appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the
41 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
42 shall be coterminous with the terms of the appointing authority for each
43 such member in accordance with the provisions of section 4-1a of the
44 general statutes.

45 (2) Appointed members of the commission shall serve for four-year
46 terms which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as
47 provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Members shall continue

48 to serve until their successors are appointed.

49 (f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
50 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the commission
51 from among the members of the commission. Such chairpersons shall
52 schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not
53 later than November 1, 2024.

54 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
55 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
56 shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

57 (h) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any
58 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the
59 balance of the unexpired term.

60 (i) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the
61 transaction of any business.

62 (j) The members of the commission shall serve without
63 compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be
64 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
65 their duties.

66 (k) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: (1)
67 To advance bilateral trade and investment between the state and
68 Ireland; (2) to initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to
69 the state and Ireland; (3) to promote business and academic exchanges
70 between the state and Ireland; (4) to encourage mutual economic
71 support between the state and Ireland; (5) to encourage mutual
72 investment in the infrastructure of the state and Ireland; (6) to address
73 such other issues as determined by the commission; (7) to obtain from
74 any executive department, board, commission or other agency of the
75 state such assistance and data as are necessary and available to carry out
76 the purposes of this section; (8) to accept any gift, donation or bequest
77 for the purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and

78 (9) to perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to
79 carry out the duties described in this section.

80 (l) The commission shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the
81 chairpersons or a majority of the commission. Any appointed member
82 who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend
83 fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be
84 deemed to have resigned from the commission.

85 (m) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
86 commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
87 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the Commissioner
88 of Economic and Community Development and the joint standing
89 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
90 relating to commerce on the activities of the commission during the
91 preceding year, which shall include, but need not be limited to, any
92 recommendations for policy changes and amendments to the general
93 statutes necessary to effectuate the purposes of the commission.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section