



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

Raised Bill No. 248

LCO No. 2065



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

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 who have current or past involvement in organizations that promote
7 Irish affairs or are interested in the well-being of trade relations between
8 the state and Ireland;

9 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
10 have current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish
11 affairs or are interested in the well-being of trade relations between the
12 state and Ireland;

13 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of

14 Representatives, who have current or past involvement in organizations
15 that promote Irish affairs or are interested in the well-being of trade
16 relations between the state and Ireland;

17 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who have
18 current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs
19 or are interested in the well-being of trade relations between the state
20 and Ireland;

21 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
22 Representatives, who have current or past involvement in organizations
23 that promote Irish affairs or are interested in the well-being of trade
24 relations between the state and Ireland;

25 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who have
26 current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs
27 or are interested in the well-being of trade relations between the state
28 and Ireland;

29 (7) Seven persons appointed by the Governor, who have current or
30 past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or are
31 interested in the well-being of trade relations between the state and
32 Ireland;

33 (8) A representative of a public institution of higher education in the
34 state, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

35 (9) A representative of a chamber of commerce in the state, who shall
36 be appointed by the Governor; and

37 (10) Two representatives of Irish-American communities in the state,
38 who shall be appointed by the Governor and shall not be members of
39 the same political party.

40 (c) Any member of the commission appointed under subdivisions (1)
41 to (6), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the
42 General Assembly.

43 (d) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later
44 than October 1, 2024. Initial appointments made by the Governor, the
45 majority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority leader
46 of the House of Representatives shall terminate on September 30, 2027.
47 Initial appointments made by the speaker of the House of
48 Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority
49 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall terminate
50 on September 30, 2028.

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

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

59 (g) Appointed members of the commission shall serve for four-year
60 terms which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as
61 provided in subsection (d) of this section. Members shall continue to
62 serve until their successors are appointed.

63 (h) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any
64 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the
65 balance of the unexpired term.

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

68 (j) The members of the commission shall serve without
69 compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be
70 reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of
71 their duties.

72 (k) The commission shall have the following powers and duties to:

73 (1) Advance bilateral trade and investment between the state and
74 Ireland; (2) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to the
75 state and Ireland; (3) promote business and academic exchanges
76 between the state and Ireland; (4) encourage mutual economic support
77 between the state and Ireland; (5) encourage mutual investment in the
78 infrastructure of the state and Ireland; (6) address such other issues as
79 determined by the commission; (7) obtain from any executive
80 department, board, commission or other agency of the state such
81 assistance and data as necessary and available to carry out the purposes
82 of this section; (8) accept any gift, donation or bequest for the purpose
83 of performing the duties described in this section; and (9) perform such
84 other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties
85 described in this section.

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

91 (m) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
92 commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
93 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the Commissioner
94 of Economic and Community Development and the joint standing
95 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
96 relating to commerce on the activities of the commission during the
97 preceding year, which shall include, but need not be limited to,
98 recommendations for policy changes and amendments to the general
99 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
-----------	---------------------	-------------

Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]