

STATE OF NEW YORK

7083

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 17, 2023

Introduced by Sen. KENNEDY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business

AN ACT to amend the economic development law, in relation to establishing the New York state Ireland trade commission

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The economic development law is amended by adding a new
2 article 10-A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 10-A

NEW YORK STATE IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

3 Section 227. New York state Ireland trade commission.

4 § 227. New York state Ireland trade commission. 1. (a) There is hereby
5 established the New York state Ireland trade commission. The commission
6 shall consist of twenty-three members, to be appointed as follows:

7 (i)(1) Four members of the senate shall be appointed by the temporary
8 president of the senate, two of whom shall have current or past
9 involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or shall have
10 interest in the well-being of trade relations between the state and the
11 Island of Ireland, and two members of the senate shall be appointed by
12 the minority leader of the senate, both of whom shall have current or
13 past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or shall
14 have interest in the well-being of trade relations between the state and
15 the Island of Ireland.

16 (2) Four members of the assembly shall be appointed by the speaker of
17 the assembly, two of whom shall have current or past involvement in
18 organizations that promote Irish affairs or shall have interest in the
19 well-being of trade relations between the state and the Island of
20 Ireland; and two members of the assembly shall be appointed by the
21 minority leader of the assembly, both of whom shall have current or past
22 involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or shall have
23 interest in the well-being of trade relations between the state and the
24 Island of Ireland.

25 EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
26 [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (3) The legislative members of the commission shall serve during the
2 two-year legislative term in which the appointments are made.

3 (ii) Eleven members of the commission shall be appointed by the gover-
4 nor. Six members shall serve for a term of three years and five shall
5 serve for a term of four years. Such eleven members appointed by the
6 governor shall include: the commissioner or their designee; at least one
7 representative from a public institution of higher education; and at
8 least two public members representing Irish American communities.

9 (b) All appointments shall be made no later than ninety days following
10 the effective date of this section. A vacancy in the membership of the
11 commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-
12 ment was made.

13 (c) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but may
14 be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred in the performance of their
15 duties, within the limit of funds appropriated to the commission or
16 otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

17 (d) The commission shall meet and hold hearings at the places it
18 designates throughout the state.

19 2. The temporary president of the senate shall designate two co-chair-
20 persons from among their appointments, one each from the majority and
21 minority party; and the speaker of the assembly shall designate two
22 co-chairpersons from among their appointments, one each from the majori-
23 ty and minority party. A majority of the members of the commission shall
24 constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the commis-
25 sion.

26 3. (a) The purpose of the New York state Ireland trade commission
27 shall be to:

28 (i) advance bilateral trade and investment between the state and the
29 Island of Ireland;

30 (ii) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to the
31 state and the Island of Ireland;

32 (iii) promote business and academic exchanges between the state and
33 the Island of Ireland;

34 (iv) encourage mutual economic support between the state and the
35 Island of Ireland;

36 (v) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of the state and
37 the Island of Ireland; and

38 (vi) address such other issues as determined by the commission.

39 (b) The commission shall report its findings, results, and recommenda-
40 tions to the governor, and the legislature, within one year of its
41 initial organizational meeting and by February first of each succeeding
42 year for the activities of the preceding calendar year. The report shall
43 be in writing and include recommendations as deemed appropriate by the
44 commission to effectuate its purpose, as provided by this section.

45 4. The New York state Ireland trade commission shall be authorized to
46 raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising events,
47 alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants, and bequests from
48 individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and
49 public and private organizations and institutions, to defray the commis-
50 sion's administrative expenses and to carry out its purposes as set
51 forth in this section. The funds, gifts, grants, or bequests received
52 pursuant to this section shall be deposited in an account in the general
53 fund and allocated and annually appropriated to the department to defray
54 the commission's administrative expenses and carry out its purposes.

55 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.