STATE OF NEW YORK

8108

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 15, 2025

Introduced by Sen. KAVANAGH -- 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:

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

ARTICLE 10-A

NEW YORK STATE IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

Section 227. New York state Ireland trade commission.

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

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

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

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

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

(ii) Eleven members of the commission shall be appointed by the governor. Six members shall serve for a term of three years and five shall serve for a term of four years. Such eleven members appointed by the governor shall include: the commissioner or their designee; at least one representative from a public institution of higher education; and at least two public members representing Irish American communities.

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

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

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

2. The temporary president of the senate shall designate two co-chairpersons from among their appointments, one each from the majority and minority party; and the speaker of the assembly shall designate two co-chairpersons from among their appointments, one each from the majority and minority party. A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.