



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 248

February Session, 2024



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) The ranking members of the joint standing committee of the
19 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce,
20 or their designees;

21 (9) Three persons appointed by the Governor;

22 (10) A representative of a public institution of higher education in the
23 state, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

24 (11) A representative of a chamber of commerce in the state, who shall
25 be appointed by the Governor; and

26 (12) Two representatives of Irish-American communities in the state,
27 who shall be appointed by the Governor and shall not be members of
28 the same political party.

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

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

35 (e) (1) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not
36 later than October 1, 2024. Initial appointments made by the Governor,
37 the majority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority
38 leader of the House of Representatives shall terminate on September 30,
39 2027. Initial appointments made by the speaker of the House of
40 Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority
41 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall terminate
42 on September 30, 2028. The initial and subsequent terms of members
43 appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the
44 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce

45 shall be coterminous with the terms of the appointing authority for each
46 such member in accordance with the provisions of section 4-1a of the
47 general statutes.

48 (2) Appointed members of the commission shall serve for four-year
49 terms which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as
50 provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Members shall continue
51 to serve until their successors are appointed.

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

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

60 (h) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any
61 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the
62 balance of the unexpired term.

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

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

69 (k) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: (1)
70 To advance bilateral trade and investment between the state and
71 Ireland; (2) to initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to
72 the state and Ireland; (3) to promote business and academic exchanges
73 between the state and Ireland; (4) to encourage mutual economic
74 support between the state and Ireland; (5) to encourage mutual

75 investment in the infrastructure of the state and Ireland; (6) to address
76 such other issues as determined by the commission; (7) to obtain from
77 any executive department, board, commission or other agency of the
78 state such assistance and data as are necessary and available to carry out
79 the purposes of this section; (8) to accept any gift, donation or bequest
80 for the purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and
81 (9) to perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to
82 carry out the duties described in this section.

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

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

CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*