

Utah-Ireland Trade Commission
2025 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH
Chief Sponsor: Wayne A. Harper

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill creates the Utah-Ireland Trade Commission.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ creates the Utah-Ireland Trade Commission (commission);
- ▶ describes the membership, purpose, and duties of the commission;
- ▶ requires an annual report;
- ▶ authorizes the commission to solicit funds for certain purposes;
- ▶ creates the Utah-Ireland Trade Commission Restricted Account; and
- ▶ provides that the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel staff the commission.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

36-36-101, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36-36-102, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36-36-103, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36-36-104, Utah Code Annotated 1953

36-36-105, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **36-36-101** is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 35. UTAH-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

**36-36-101 . Utah-Ireland Trade Commission - - Creation -- Membership --
Chairs -- Terms -- Per diem and expenses.**

- 32 (1) The commission membership consists of 11 members:
- 33 (a) seven members to be selected as follows:
- 34 (i) four members from the House of Representatives, including:
- 35 (A) three selected by the speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- 36 (B) one selected by the speaker of the House of Representatives in consultation
- 37 with the minority leader of the House of Representatives;
- 38 (ii) three members from the Senate, including:
- 39 (A) two selected by the president of the Senate; and
- 40 (B) one selected by the president of the Senate in consultation with the minority
- 41 leader of the Senate; and
- 42 (b) four members to be appointed by the governor, including:
- 43 (i) two members from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, who shall be
- 44 the executive director and executive director's designee and who shall oversee the
- 45 following commission activities in accordance with Section 63N-19-102:
- 46 (A) diplomatic relations;
- 47 (B) business travel; and
- 48 (C) corporate recruitment;
- 49 (ii) one member of the public who represents the Irish-American community in Utah;
- 50 and
- 51 (iii) one member from:
- 52 (A) the Department of Workforce Services; or
- 53 (B) an institution of higher education, as that term is defined in Section 53B-1-102.
- 54 (2)(a) Each member shall serve a two-year term.
- 55 (b) When a vacancy occurs for a member selected under Subsection (2)(a), the
- 56 replacement shall be selected for the unexpired term.
- 57 (c) Notwithstanding the requirement of Subsection (3)(a), the governor shall, at the time
- 58 of appointment or reappointment, adjust the length of terms to ensure that the terms
- 59 of these members are staggered so that approximately half of the members are
- 60 appointed or reappointed under Subsection (3)(d) every two years.
- 61 (d) When a vacancy occurs among members appointed by the governor, the replacement
- 62 shall be appointed for the unexpired term.
- 63 (3) A majority of the commission members constitutes a quorum.
- 64 (4) The commission shall designate, by majority vote, a member as chair of the commission.
- 65 (5)(a) State government officer and employee members who do not receive salary, per

66 diem, or expenses from the government officer's or employee's agency for service on
67 the commission may receive per diem and expenses at the rates incurred in the
68 performance of official commission duties at the rates established by the Division of
69 Finance under Sections 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.

70 (b) Legislators on the commission receive compensation and expenses as provided by
71 law and legislative rule.

72 Section 2. Section **36-36-102** is enacted to read:

73 **36-36-102 . Purpose and duties of the commission - - Written report.**

74 (1) The purpose of the commission shall be to:

- 75 (a) advance bilateral trade and investment between Utah and Ireland;
- 76 (b) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to Utah and Ireland;
- 77 (c) promote business and academic exchanges between Utah and Ireland;
- 78 (d) encourage mutual economic support between Utah and Ireland; and
- 79 (e) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of Utah and Ireland.

80 (2) The commission shall:

- 81 (a) comply with the rules of legislative interim committees unless those rules conflict
82 with this section;
- 83 (b) study and make recommendations to the Legislature concerning:
 - 84 (i) the impact of international treaties adopted by the United States Senate on the
85 Legislature's constitutional powers to regulate state affairs, both public and private;
 - 86 (ii) the creation, duties and powers, and oversight of a state trade representative or
87 state point of contact; and
 - 88 (iii) the promotion of Utah-Ireland trade;
- 89 (c) maintain active communication with:
 - 90 (i) the office of the United States trade representative;
 - 91 (ii) Utah's congressional delegation;
 - 92 (iii) Utah's state trade representative or state point of contact, if created; and
 - 93 (iv) any other organization whose mission involves international trade in the United
94 States as the commission considers appropriate;
- 95 (d) solicit funding to allow the commission to visit Ireland without incurring expense to
96 the taxpayer, as described in Section 36-36-103; and
- 97 (e) have no more than four paid meetings per year.

98 (3) Beginning in 2026, and no later than July 1 of each year, the commission shall issue a
99 written report to the governor and the Economic Development and Workforce Services

100 Interim Committee regarding the commission's activities in the preceding year and any
101 recommendations to further trade and good relations between Utah and Ireland.

102 Section 3. Section **36-36-103** is enacted to read:

103 **36-36-103 . Solicitation of funds.**

104 (1) The commission shall be authorized to raise funds as described in this section to:

105 (a) defray administrative expenses; and

106 (b) carry out the commission's purposes.

107 (2) The commission may:

108 (a) raise funds through direct solicitation or other fund-raising events, alone or with
109 other groups; and

110 (b) accept gifts, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations,
111 governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions.

112 (3) All funds received by the commission shall be deposited in the Utah-Ireland Trade
113 Commission Restricted Account created in Section 36-36-104.

114 Section 4. Section **36-36-104** is enacted to read:

115 **36-36-104 . Utah-Ireland Trade Commission Restricted Account.**

116 (1) There is created a restricted account within the General Fund known as the Utah-Ireland
117 Trade Commission Restricted Account.

118 (2) The account consists of:

119 (a) money deposited into the account, as required by Section 36-36-103; and

120 (b) appropriations made by the Legislature.

121 (3) The Legislature may annually appropriate money from the Utah-Ireland Trade
122 Commission Restricted Account to fund the activities of the commission described in
123 Section 36-35-102.

124 Section 5. Section **36-36-105** is enacted to read:

125 **36-36-105 . Staff Support.**

126 The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall staff the commission.

127 Section 6. **Effective Date.**

128 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.