



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1562

Introduced 2/4/2025, by Sen. Bill Cunningham

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois-Ireland Trade Commission Act. Creates the Illinois-Ireland Trade Commission. Establishes membership of the Commission. Provides that the President of the Senate shall designate a Chair and Vice-Chair from among Commission members. Provides that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall provide administrative support for the Commission. Provides that the members of the Commission shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties on the Commission. Provides that the Commission shall meet at least twice per calendar year, beginning in 2025. Provides that the Commission may 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. Provides that funds shall only be used to carry out the duties of the Commission. Provides that the Commission shall file a report by the end of each calendar year detailing any actions made by the Commission, as well as new or expanded relations between Illinois and Irish entities, with the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Effective immediately.

LRB104 10124 SPS 20196 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Illinois-Ireland Trade Commission Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) As a result of the Brexit agreement following the
8 United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, Northern
9 Ireland uniquely now has access to both the United
10 Kingdom's market of 67,000,000 people and the European
11 Union market of 450,000,000 people.

12 (2) There are 950 United States companies based in
13 Ireland, using it as a gateway to the European Union.

14 (3) Ireland is the 9th largest investor in the United
15 States.

16 (4) International trade is critical for the economic
17 growth and prosperity of the State of Illinois, supports
18 well-paid jobs in Illinois, raises Illinois living
19 standards, and helps Illinoisans provide for their
20 families with affordable goods and services.

21 Section 10. Illinois-Ireland Trade Commission. The
22 Illinois-Ireland Trade Commission is created to build on the

1 2-way relationship between Illinois and Ireland to promote
2 economic growth, trade, and education. The Commission shall be
3 composed of the following members:

4 (1) one member of the Senate appointed by the President of
5 the Senate;

6 (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the Minority
7 Leader of the Senate;

8 (3) one member of the House of Representatives appointed
9 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

10 (4) one member of the House of Representatives appointed
11 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

12 (5) the Deputy Governor for Budget and Economy or his or
13 her designee;

14 (6) the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity or
15 his or her designee;

16 (7) the Consul General of Ireland in Chicago or his or her
17 designee;

18 (8) the Executive Director of the Illinois Chamber of
19 Commerce or his or her designee;

20 (9) the President of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
21 or his or her designee;

22 (10) the President of the Illinois Retail Merchants
23 Association or his or her designee;

24 (11) the President of the Illinois Manufacturers'
25 Association or his or her designee; and

26 (12) the President of the Illinois Hotel & Lodging

1 Association or his or her designee.

2 Section 15. Chair and Vice-Chair. The President of the
3 Senate shall designate a Chair and Vice-Chair from among
4 Commission members.

5 Section 20. Administrative support. The Department of
6 Commerce and Economic Opportunity shall provide administrative
7 support for the Commission.

8 Section 25. Reimbursement for expenses. The members of the
9 Commission shall serve without compensation but may be
10 reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their
11 duties on the Commission.

12 Section 30. Meetings. The Commission shall meet at least
13 twice per calendar year, beginning in 2025.

14 Section 35. Funds; gifts. The Commission may raise funds,
15 through direct solicitation or other fundraising events,
16 alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants, and
17 bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations,
18 governmental agencies, and public and private organizations
19 and institutions. Funds shall only be used to carry out the
20 duties of the Commission.

1 Section 40. Annual report. The Commission shall file a
2 report by the end of each calendar year detailing any actions
3 made by the Commission, as well as new or expanded relations
4 between Illinois and Irish entities, with the Governor, the
5 General Assembly, and the Director of Commerce and Economic
6 Opportunity.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.