

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2132 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY DALEY, O'NEAL, HOWARD, JAMES, KHAN, MARCELL, MERSKI, SANCHEZ, HOHENSTEIN, DONAHUE, HADDOCK, NEILSON, PIELLI, HILL-EVANS, BOYD, BELLMON, SCHLOSSBERG, OTTEN AND GREEN, MARCH 19, 2024

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 27, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Pennsylvania-Ireland
3 Trade Commission and the Pennsylvania-Ireland Trade
4 Commission Account FUND; imposing duties on the Department of <--
5 Community and Economic Development; and making an editorial
6 change.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Chapter 15 heading of Title 12 of the
10 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

CHAPTER 15

[(Reserved)]

PENNSYLVANIA-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

14 Section 2. Chapter 15 of Title 12 is amended by adding
15 sections to read:

16 § 1501. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
18 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 ~~"Account." The Pennsylvania Ireland Trade Commission Account~~ <--
3 ~~established under section 1503 (relating to Pennsylvania Ireland~~
4 ~~Trade Commission Account).~~

5 "Commission." The Pennsylvania-Ireland Trade Commission
6 established under section 1502 (relating to establishment of
7 commission).

8 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
9 Development of the Commonwealth.

10 "Financial assets." Monetary and other financial gifts,
11 grants, donations, bequests, payments and other monetary
12 contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations,
13 ~~governmental agencies,~~ public and private organizations and <--
14 institutions and any other source.

15 "FUND." THE PENNSYLVANIA-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION FUND <--
16 ESTABLISHED UNDER SECTION 1503 (RELATING TO PENNSYLVANIA-IRELAND
17 TRADE COMMISSION FUND).

18 "Secretary." The Secretary of Community and Economic
19 Development of the Commonwealth.

20 § 1502. Establishment of commission.

21 The Pennsylvania-Ireland Trade Commission is established
22 within the department.

23 § 1503. Pennsylvania-Ireland Trade Commission ~~Account~~ FUND. <--

24 (a) Establishment and purposes.--The Pennsylvania-Ireland
25 Trade Commission ~~Account~~ FUND is established within the General <--
26 Fund AS A NONLAPSING FUND WITHIN THE STATE TREASURY to accept <--
27 financial assets to defray the administrative expenses of the
28 commission and implement and administer the provisions of this
29 chapter.

30 ~~(b) Operation. The money in the account is appropriated on~~ <--

1 ~~a continuing basis to the commission for the purposes described~~
2 ~~in subsection (a).~~

3 (B) OPERATION.-- <--

4 (1) ALL MONEY DEPOSITED INTO THE FUND AND INTEREST AND
5 OTHER EARNINGS ON THE MONEY IN THE FUND ARE APPROPRIATED ON A
6 CONTINUING BASIS TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED
7 IN SUBSECTION (A).

8 (2) ANY MONEY REMAINING IN THE FUND AT THE END OF EACH
9 FISCAL YEAR, INCLUDING INTEREST AND OTHER EARNINGS, SHALL NOT
10 REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND, BUT SHALL REMAIN IN THE FUND.

11 § 1504. Membership requirements.

12 (a) Appointments.--The commission shall consist of the
13 following members:

14 (1) The secretary or a designee of the secretary.

15 (2) Six individuals appointed by the Governor, which
16 shall include:

17 (i) At least one representative from a public
18 institution of higher education.

19 (ii) At least one representative from the
20 Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry or a
21 successor organization.

22 (iii) At least two members representing Irish-
23 American communities, neither of whom shall be members of
24 the same political party.

25 (3) Two individuals appointed by the President pro
26 tempore of the Senate.

27 (4) Two individuals appointed by the Speaker of the
28 House of Representatives.

29 (5) Two individuals appointed by the Minority Leader of
30 the Senate.

1 (6) Two individuals appointed by the Minority Leader of
2 the House of Representatives.

3 (b) Qualifications.--All members appointed by the President
4 pro tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate and the
6 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall have
7 current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish
8 affairs or have interest in the well-being of trade relations
9 between Pennsylvania and Ireland.

10 (c) Length of term.--

11 (1) The members appointed under subsection (a)(2) shall
12 serve for a term of four years.

13 (2) Members appointed under subsection (a)(3), (4), (5)
14 and (6) shall serve for a term of two years.

15 (d) ~~Initial appointments.~~ Initial INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.-- <--
16 INITIAL appointments to the commission shall be made no later
17 than 90 days after the effective date of this subsection.

18 (e) Vacancies.--A vacancy in the membership of the
19 commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
20 appointment was made.

21 (f) Compensation prohibited.--Members of the commission
22 shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for
23 expenses actually incurred in the performance of the member's
24 duties within the limit of money appropriated to the commission
25 or otherwise made available to the commission for its purposes.

26 (g) Chair.--The President pro tempore of the Senate shall
27 designate one chair from among the President pro tempore's
28 appointments. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
29 designate one chair from among the Speaker of the House of
30 Representatives' appointments.

1 (h) Quorum.--A majority of the members of the commission
2 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of
3 the commission.

4 § 1505. Meetings.

5 The commission shall meet quarterly and hold hearings as
6 necessary at the places it designates within this Commonwealth.

7 § 1506. Applicability.

8 The following acts shall apply to the commission:

9 (1) The act of July 19, 1957 (P.L.1017, No.451), known
10 as the State Adverse Interest Act.

11 (2) The act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as
12 the Right-to-Know Law.

13 (3) The provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Chs. 7 (relating to
14 open meetings) and 11 (relating to ethics standards and
15 financial disclosure).

16 § 1507. Fiduciary relationship.

17 The members of the commission shall stand in a fiduciary
18 relationship with the Commonwealth and the commission as to the
19 financial assets of the commission.

20 § 1508. Powers and duties.

21 The commission shall have and may exercise all powers and
22 duties necessary or appropriate to carry out and effectuate the
23 commission's purposes, including:

24 (1) Advance bilateral trade and investment between
25 Pennsylvania and Ireland.

26 (2) Initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual
27 interest to Pennsylvania and Ireland.

28 (3) Promote business and academic exchanges between
29 Pennsylvania and Ireland.

30 (4) Encourage mutual economic support between

1 Pennsylvania and Ireland.

2 (5) Encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of
3 Pennsylvania and Ireland.

4 (6) Accept financial assets to defray the administrative
5 expenses of the commission and implement and administer the
6 provisions of this chapter.

7 (7) Adopt bylaws, if necessary.

8 (8) Address other issues as determined by the
9 commission.

10 § 1509. Report.

11 The commission shall report its findings, results and
12 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly within
13 one year of the commission's initial organizational meeting and
14 by February 1 of each succeeding year for the activities in the
15 preceding calendar year. The report shall be in writing and
16 include recommendations as deemed appropriate by the commission
17 to effectuate the commission's purposes.

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.