

SJR24 INTRODUCED



1 SJR24
2 SU2U777-1
3 By Senator Livingston
4 RFD: RULES
5 First Read: 28-Feb-24



SJR___ ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the contributions of Ireland to our civilization have been enormous: through her missionaries and scholars, her achievements in literature and music, and not least in the back-breaking labor borne by her sons and daughters without number who helped build our nation, all of which are the achievements of a people who only officially joined the family of nations 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Irish Alabamians have left a lasting mark on our state, such as pioneering educator Margaret Murray Washington, faithful witness Reverend James Coyle, and Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan; and

WHEREAS, most of the people of both Ireland and Alabama have been well acquainted with scarcity, having only realized some measure of economic abundance in the last several decades; and

WHEREAS, as our respective economies increasingly diversify, both the State of Alabama and the Republic of Ireland now participate in the global economy, with the value of Alabama's exports to Ireland increasing nearly 75 percent in 2021-2022 alone, while Irish companies such as James Hardie and CHR are investing directly in Alabama and its workers, we believe that our economic and cultural relationship with Ireland should no longer be taken for



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granted; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama-Ireland Trade Commission is created to foster closer ties of friendship between the State of Alabama and the Republic of Ireland.

(a) The Alabama-Ireland Trade Commission shall be comprised of the following members:

(1) A majority member and a minority member of the Senate, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, with preference to be given to any senator who is a member of the American Irish State Legislators Caucus or a sponsor of this resolution.

(2) A majority member and a minority member of the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with preference to be given to any representative who is a member of the American Irish State Legislators Caucus or a sponsor of this resolution.

(3) The Chair of the Senate Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Development Committee, or his or her designee.

(4) The Chair of the House of Representatives Economic Development and Tourism Committee, or his or designee.

(5) The Secretary of Commerce, or his or her designee.

(6) An individual recognized for his or her achievements and experience in international business to be appointed by the Governor.



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56 (7) An individual who is active in Irish-American
57 cultural and civic affairs, with preference for an
58 individual with a history of cooperation in the legislative
59 process, to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

60 (8) An individual active in public higher education
61 who has an interest in Alabama-Ireland trade relations to be
62 appointed by the Chancellor of The University of Alabama
63 System.

64 (9) The President of the Business Council of Alabama,
65 or his or her designee.

66 (10) Up to 11 individuals active in international
67 trade or business, economic development, and cultural
68 exchange, to be appointed by the Government of Ireland.

69 (b)(1)a. The appointing authorities on behalf of the
70 State of Alabama shall coordinate their appointments to
71 assure the study commission membership is inclusive and
72 reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and
73 economic diversity of the state.

74 b. Appointments made by the Government of Ireland
75 shall be coordinated with the parliamentary liaison to the
76 American Irish State Legislators Caucus.

77 (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall
78 call the first meeting of the commission to be held at a
79 date no later than September 20, 2024, at which the members
80 shall elect a chair from among the legislative membership
81 and assign study and reporting responsibilities to the
82 members.



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83 (3) The legislative members of the commission shall
84 be entitled to their legislative compensation, per diem, and
85 travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the
86 commission pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution of
87 Alabama of 2022.

88 (4) The non-legislative members of the commission
89 from the State of Alabama shall serve without compensation
90 but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending
91 commission meetings pursuant to the policies of the
92 respective appointing authority.

93 (c) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
94 1975, the commission shall provide to the Secretary of State
95 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on
96 the commission, and a copy of all reports and written
97 recommendations produced throughout the duration of the
98 commission.

99 (d) (1) The commission shall meet as necessary to
100 conduct its business.

101 (2) A quorum for a meeting shall be 12 members.

102 (3) After the first meeting, the commission may meet
103 by electronic means.

104 (e) The purpose of the commission shall be to
105 accomplish the following:

106 (1) Advance bilateral trade and investment between
107 the State of Alabama and the Republic of Ireland.

108 (2) Encourage mutual investment in the State of
109 Alabama and the Republic of Ireland, especially in
110 infrastructure and human capital.



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111 (3) Promote business, educational, and cultural
112 exchanges between the State of Alabama and the Republic of
113 Ireland.

114 (4) Take joint action on policy issues of mutual
115 agreement between the State of Alabama and the Republic of
116 Ireland.

117 (5) Address such other issues as determined by the
118 commission.

119 (f) The commission shall annually report to the
120 Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of
121 Representatives no later than the third day of the Regular
122 Session of the Legislature on the number of times it met
123 during the preceding 12 months, and shall include minutes of
124 its meetings, with any interim recommendations or requests
125 that may assist its work.

126 (g) The Senate and the Legislative Services Agency
127 shall provide administrative and professional services as
128 needed to the commission.

129 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon enactment of this
130 resolution, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall
131 transmit a copy of this resolution to Senator Mark Daly,
132 Seanad Eireann; Ms. Caoimhe Ni Chonchuir, Consul General of
133 Ireland in Atlanta; Mr. Leo Clancy, Chief Executive Officer
134 of Enterprise Ireland; and Mr. Michael Lohan, Chief
135 Executive Officer of IDA Ireland.