SJR24

IDSLW6Z-2

By Senator Livingston

RFD: RULES

First Read: 28-Feb-24

SJR24 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 science, literature, the arts, entrepreneurship, 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, generations of Irish Alabamians and their descendants have left a lasting mark on our state and its heritage, such as pioneering educator Margaret Murray Washington, faithful witness Reverend James Coyle, and Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan; and

WHEREAS, as our respective economies increasingly diversify in the global economy, 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 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 her designee.

(5) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, or his or her designee.

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

(7) The Director of the Alabama Port Authority, or his or her designee.

(8) An individual recognized for his or her private sector experience in international trade and exports to be appointed by the Governor.

(9) An individual who is active in Irish-American cultural and civic affairs, and who has a history of cooperation in the legislative process, to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor.

(10) Two individuals from public higher education who have experience or professional or academic interest in Alabama-Ireland trade relations, to be appointed respectively by the Chancellor of The University of Alabama System and the President of Auburn University.

(11) The President of the Business Council of Alabama, or his or her designee.

(12) The Alabama State Director of the National Federation of Independent Business, or his or her designee.

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

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

(2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall call the first meeting of the commission to be held at a date no later than September 20, 2024, at which the members shall elect a chair from among the legislative membership

and assign study and reporting responsibilities to the members.

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

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

(c)(1) The commission shall meet as necessary to conduct its business.

(2) A quorum for a meeting shall be 14 members.

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

(d) The purpose of the commission shall be to accomplish the following:

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

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

(3) Promote sustained business, educational, and cultural exchanges, and policy issues of mutual benefit, between the State of Alabama and the Republic of Ireland.

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

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

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

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

Senate

Read for the first time and referred 28-Feb-24
to the Senate committee on RULES

Read for the second time and placed 02-Apr-24
on the calendar:
0 amendments

Read for the third time and passed 02-Apr-24
as amended

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.