

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0447.01 Jacob Bennington x2371

HOUSE BILL 26-1118

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Hartsook and Stewart R.,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Frizell and Snyder,

House Committees

State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE COLORADO-IRELAND**
102 **INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill creates the Colorado-Ireland trade commission (commission) in the Colorado legislature. The commission is comprised of 11 members.

Members of the commission serve without compensation and do not receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in furtherance of the commission's responsibilities.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

The commission is required to:

- Meet twice per year, with a quorum of at least 6 members;
- Annually submit a report to the members of the general assembly and the governor with the number of times the commission met in the preceding 12 months, the minutes of commission meetings, and any recommendations or requests that may assist the commission's work; and
- Work to advance bilateral economic interests and investments between Colorado and Ireland.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 26 to article
3 2 of title 2 as follows:

4 PART 26

5 COLORADO-IRELAND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

6 COMMISSION

7 **2-2-2601. Colorado-Ireland international trade commission -**
8 **creation - membership - duties - report.**

9 (1) **Commission created.** THERE IS CREATED THE COLORADO-
10 IRELAND INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO IN THIS
11 SECTION AS THE "COMMISSION", IN THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC
12 DEVELOPMENT.

13 (2) (a) **Membership.** THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE
14 FOLLOWING ELEVEN MEMBERS:

15 (I) EIGHT VOTING MEMBERS APPOINTED AS FOLLOWS:

16 (A) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, WITH ONE MEMBER OF THE
17 MAJORITY PARTY APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND ONE
18 MEMBER OF THE MINORITY PARTY APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER
19 OF THE SENATE;

20 (B) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WITH ONE

1 MEMBER OF THE MAJORITY PARTY APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND ONE MEMBER OF THE MINORITY PARTY
3 APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES;

5 (C) ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR
6 ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS, APPOINTED
7 BY THE GOVERNOR;

8 (D) ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ACTIVE IN IRISH-AMERICAN
9 CULTURAL AND CIVIC AFFAIRS, WITH A PREFERENCE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL
10 WITH A HISTORY OF COOPERATION IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS,
11 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

12 (E) ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ACTIVE IN ONE OR MORE STATE
13 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHO HAS AN INTEREST IN
14 COLORADO-IRELAND TRADE RELATIONS, APPOINTED BY THE COLORADO
15 COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

16 (F) ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO REPRESENTS BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC
17 DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
18 THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; AND

19 (II) THREE VOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

20 (A) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE WHO IS THE CHAIR OF THE STATE,
21 VETERANS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OR ITS
22 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE;

23 (B) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO IS THE
24 CHAIR OF THE STATE, CIVIC, MILITARY, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
25 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR ITS SUCCESSOR
26 COMMITTEE, OR THE CHAIR'S DESIGNEE; AND

27 (C) THE DIRECTOR OF THE COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC

1 DEVELOPMENT, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE.

2 (b) THE MEMBERS APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I)
3 OF THIS SECTION SHALL SERVE TERMS OF THREE YEARS AND ARE ELIGIBLE
4 FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF
5 THEIR TERMS.

6 (c) ALL APPOINTMENTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF
7 THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31, 2026. IN
8 MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION, THE APPOINTING
9 AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE REASONABLE EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT THE
10 COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP IS INCLUSIVE AND REFLECTS THE GEOGRAPHIC
11 AND DEMOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE.

12 (d) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION APPOINTED PURSUANT TO
13 SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF THE
14 APPLICABLE APPOINTING AUTHORITY OR UNTIL THE MEMBER NO LONGER
15 SERVES IN THE POSITION FOR WHICH THAT MEMBER WAS APPOINTED TO
16 THE COMMISSION. IF A VACANCY OCCURS, THE APPROPRIATE APPOINTING
17 AUTHORITY SHALL APPOINT A REPLACEMENT MEMBER WHO MEETS THE
18 REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2)(a)(I) OF THIS SECTION FOR
19 THE VACANT POSITION NOT LATER THAN NINETY DAYS FROM THE DATE
20 THE VACANCY IS DEEMED TO EXIST.

21 (e) MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SERVE WITHOUT
22 COMPENSATION AND ARE NOT ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAVEL
23 EXPENSES OR OTHER EXPENSES RELATED TO THEIR WORK ON THE
24 COMMISSION.

25 (3) **Meetings.**

26 (a) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL CALL
27 THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMISSION, TO BE HELD NO LATER THAN

1 SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, AT WHICH THE MEMBERS SHALL ELECT A CHAIR AND
2 VICE-CHAIR FROM AMONG THE LEGISLATIVE MEMBERSHIP AND ASSIGN
3 STUDY AND REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE MEMBERS.

4 (b) THE COMMISSION SHALL POST ON THE WEBSITE OF THE
5 COLORADO OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT A NOTICE OF ALL
6 MEETINGS, THE NAME OF EACH MEMBER SERVING ON THE COMMISSION,
7 AND A COPY OF ALL REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PRODUCED BY THE
8 COMMISSION.

9 (c) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT LEAST TWICE PER YEAR.

10 (d) A QUORUM FOR A MEETING IS SIX MEMBERS.

11 (e) THE COMMISSION MAY MEET BY ELECTRONIC MEANS,
12 INCLUDING FOR ITS FIRST MEETING.

13 (4) **Duties.** THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO:

14 (a) ADVANCE BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN
15 COLORADO AND IRELAND;

16 (b) ENCOURAGE MUTUAL INVESTMENT IN COLORADO AND
17 IRELAND, ESPECIALLY IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN CAPITAL;

18 (c) PROMOTE BUSINESS, EDUCATIONAL, AND CULTURAL
19 EXCHANGES BETWEEN COLORADO AND IRELAND;

20 (d) TAKE JOINT ACTION ON POLICY ISSUES OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT
21 BETWEEN COLORADO AND IRELAND; AND

22 (e) ADDRESS OTHER ISSUES AS DETERMINED NECESSARY BY THE
23 COMMISSION.

24 (5) **Reports.**

25 (a) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2027, AND ON OR BEFORE
26 JANUARY 15 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A
27 REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNOR. THE REPORT

1 MUST INCLUDE:

2 (I) THE NUMBER OF TIMES THE COMMISSION MET DURING THE
3 PRECEDING TWELVE MONTHS;

4 (II) THE MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION'S MEETINGS; AND

5 (III) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OR REQUESTS THAT MAY ASSIST THE
6 COMMISSION'S WORK.

7 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE
8 REPORTING REQUIREMENT IN THIS SUBSECTION (5) CONTINUES
9 INDEFINITELY.

10 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
13 12, 2026, if adjournment sine die is on May 13, 2026); except that, if a
14 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
15 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
16 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
17 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
18 November 2026 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
19 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.