

HOUSE BILL No. 2786

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Requested by Representative Tarwater

2-9

1 AN ACT concerning economic development; relating to international
2 trade; establishing the Kansas-Ireland trade commission to advance,
3 promote and encourage business and other mutually beneficial
4 activities between Kansas and Ireland; creating the Kansas-Ireland
5 trade commission fund.
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas-Ireland trade
9 commission. The commission shall consist of 13 members as follows:

10 (1) The chairpersons of the standing committees of the senate and the
11 house of representatives, to which legislation pertaining to commerce and
12 trade is customarily referred, as appointed by the president of the senate
13 and the speaker of the house of representatives, respectively;

14 (2) two members of the senate, one of whom shall be appointed by
15 the president of the senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the
16 minority leader of the senate. The appointees shall have interest in the
17 well-being of trade relations between Kansas and Ireland and current or
18 past involvement in businesses engaged in international trade, preferably
19 with Ireland, or organizations that promote international trade or Irish
20 affairs; and

21 (3) two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall
22 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of
23 whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of
24 representatives. The appointees shall have interest in the well-being of
25 trade relations between Kansas and Ireland and current or past
26 involvement in businesses engaged in international trade, preferably with
27 Ireland, or organizations that promote international trade or Irish affairs;

28 (4) six members, two of whom shall be selected by the governor, two
29 by the speaker of the house of representatives and two by the president of
30 the senate. The two members selected by the governor, speaker of the
31 house of representatives and president of the senate, respectively, shall
32 each be a representative of either:

33 (A) A Kansas postsecondary public education institution;

34 (B) the Irish American community in Kansas who is interested in
35 furthering trade between Kansas and Ireland;

1 (C) a Kansas industry engaged in or seeking to engage in trade with
2 Ireland; or

3 (D) a Kansas business association, trade organization, economic
4 development organization or chamber of commerce currently engaged in
5 or interested in engaging in the furtherance of trade with Ireland; and

6 (5) the secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee who has
7 responsibilities with respect to international trade.

8 (b) No public postsecondary educational institution, industry,
9 business association, trade organization or chamber of commerce shall
10 have more than one representative serving as a member of the
11 commission. Not more than two representatives of the Kansas Irish
12 community shall serve on the commission and, if more than one such
13 representative is appointed to serve, such representatives shall not be
14 members of the same political party.

15 (c) (1) Legislative members shall serve for a term corresponding to
16 the two-year biennial legislative session in which they are appointed to the
17 council and remain members of the legislature to retain membership on the
18 council. Vacancies of legislative members shall be filled for the unexpired
19 portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. The
20 appointing authority for a legislative member may remove a member and
21 substitute such member with another appointee at any time. Legislative
22 members may be reappointed.

23 (2) All nonlegislative members shall serve a term of three years.
24 Vacancies of nonlegislative members shall be filled for the unexpired
25 portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. The
26 appointing authority for the nonlegislative member may remove a member
27 and substitute such member with another appointee at any time.
28 Nonlegislative members may be reappointed.

29 (d) Members of the commission attending meetings of such
30 commission or attending a subcommittee meeting thereof authorized by
31 such commission shall be paid compensation, subsistence allowances,
32 mileage and other expenses as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223, and
33 amendments thereto, for each day or part thereof in which such member
34 attended a meeting authorized by the commission. Members shall be
35 reimbursed for other necessary and reasonable expenses actually incurred
36 in the performance of the member's official duties. A members'
37 compensation and expenses incurred from the attendance at meetings of
38 the commission and any administrative expenses of the commission shall
39 be paid from any account of the state general fund of the department of
40 commerce as designated by the secretary of commerce.

41 (e) The commission shall hold meetings at least once each quarter.
42 Meetings shall be held in Topeka, Kansas, and at the call of the
43 chairperson.

1 (f) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a
2 quorum for the transaction of the business of the commission.

3 (g) The chairperson of the house of representatives standing
4 committee on commerce, labor and economic development, or a successor
5 committee, to which legislation pertaining to employment security law is
6 customarily referred, shall serve as the chairperson of the council when
7 first organized and for the ensuing two years. The chairperson of the
8 senate standing committee on commerce, or a successor committee to
9 which legislation pertaining to employment security law is customarily
10 referred, shall serve as the chairperson of the council for the next
11 succeeding two years, and thereafter, the office of chairperson shall
12 continue to alternate between the chambers.

13 (h) The chairperson may appoint from among the commission
14 members subcommittees and subcommittee chairpersons.

15 (i) The commission shall keep records of all proceedings, which shall
16 be public and open to inspection.

17 (j) The staff of the office of revisor of statutes, the legislative
18 research department and the division of legislative administrative services
19 shall provide such assistance as may be requested by the chairperson.

20 Sec. 2. (a) The purpose of the Kansas-Ireland trade commission shall
21 be to advance, promote and encourage business and other mutually
22 beneficial activities between Kansas and Ireland, including:

23 (1) Bilateral trade and investment;

24 (2) joint action on policy issues of mutual interest;

25 (3) business and academic exchanges;

26 (4) mutual economic support;

27 (5) mutual investment in respective infrastructure; and

28 (6) other opportunities for mutual benefit and economic growth as
29 identified by the commission.

30 (b) The commission shall report findings, activities, results and
31 recommendations concerning subsection (a) to the governor and the
32 legislature within one year of the commission's initial meeting and by
33 February 1 of each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding
34 calendar year. The report shall be in writing and may include
35 recommendations or proposed legislation as deemed appropriate by the
36 commission to effectuate the commission's purpose.

37 (c) The Kansas-Ireland trade commission shall be authorized to raise
38 funds to carry out the purposes of the commission. Such funds may be
39 raised through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, either alone
40 or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants and bequests from
41 individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies and public
42 and private organizations and institutions. All such funds, gifts, grants or
43 bequests received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the Kansas-

1 Ireland trade commission fund established in section 4, and amendments
2 thereto, and all expenditures from such fund shall be for the purposes of
3 the commission and upon the majority vote of the commission.

4 Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury the
5 Kansas-Ireland trade commission fund which shall be administered by the
6 chairperson of the Kansas-Ireland trade commission or the chairperson's
7 designee. At the request of the chairperson, the secretary of commerce or
8 the secretary's designee shall serve as the designee of the chairperson with
9 respect to administration of the fund. All moneys received from any
10 private donation, gift, grant or bequest made to the commission for the
11 purposes of this act shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance
12 with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon
13 receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire
14 amount in the state treasury to the credit of the Kansas-Ireland trade
15 commission fund. All expenditures from the Kansas-Ireland trade
16 commission fund shall be for furthering the purposes of the Kansas-Ireland
17 trade commission upon a majority vote of the commission and in
18 accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of
19 accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the
20 chairperson of the Kansas-Ireland trade commission or the chairperson's
21 designee.

22 (b) On or before the 10th of each month, the director of accounts and
23 reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the Kansas-Ireland
24 trade commission fund interest earnings based on:

25 (1) The average daily balance of moneys in the Kansas-Ireland trade
26 commission fund for the preceding month; and

27 (2) the net earnings rate for the pooled money investment portfolio
28 for the preceding month.

29 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
30 publication in the statute book.