

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 AND OTTEN,
MARCH 19, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, MARCH 19, 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; 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:

11 CHAPTER 15

12 [(Reserved)]

13 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
19 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Account." The Pennsylvania Ireland Trade Commission Account
2 established under section 1503 (relating to Pennsylvania Ireland
3 Trade Commission Account).

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

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

9 "Financial assets." Monetary and other financial gifts,
10 grants, donations, bequests, payments and other monetary
11 contributions from any source.

12 § 1502. Establishment of commission.

13 The Pennsylvania Ireland Trade Commission is established
14 within the department.

15 § 1503. Pennsylvania Ireland Trade Commission Account.

16 The Pennsylvania Ireland Trade Commission Account is
17 established within the General Fund to accept money, gifts,
18 grants and bequests received under section 1510 (relating to
19 money, gifts, grants and bequests). The money in the account is
20 appropriated on a continuing basis to the commission for the
21 commission's administrative expenses.

22 § 1504. Membership requirements.

23 (a) Appointments.--The commission shall consist of the
24 following members:

25 (1) Seven members appointed by the Governor, which shall
26 include:

27 (i) At least one representative from a public
28 institution of higher education.

29 (ii) At least one representative from the
30 Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce or a successor

organization.

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

(2) Two individuals appointed by the President pro
tempore of the Senate.

(3) Two individuals appointed by the Speaker of the
House of Representatives.

(4) Two individuals appointed by the Minority Leader of
the Senate.

(5) Two individuals appointed by the Minority Leader of
the House of Representatives.

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

(c) Length of term.--

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

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

(d) Inital appointments.--Inital appointments to the
commission shall be made no later than 90 days after the
effective date of this subsection.

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

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

6 (g) Chair.--The President pro tempore of the Senate shall
7 designate one chair from among the President pro tempore's
8 appointments. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
9 designate one chair from among the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives' appointments.

11 (h) Quorum.--A majority of the members of the commission
12 shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of
13 the commission.

14 § 1505. Meetings.

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

17 § 1506. Applicability.

18 The following acts shall apply to the commission:

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

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

23 (3) The provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Chs. 7 (relating to
24 open meetings) and 11 (relating to ethics standards and
25 financial disclosure).

26 § 1507. Fiduciary relationship.

27 The members of the commission shall stand in a fiduciary
28 relationship with the Commonwealth and the commission as to the
29 financial assets of the commission.

30 § 1508. Powers and duties.

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

4 (1) Advance bilateral trade and investment between
5 Pennsylvania and Ireland.

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

8 (3) Promote business and academic exchanges between
9 Pennsylvania and Ireland.

10 (4) Encourage mutual economic support between
11 Pennsylvania and Ireland.

12 (5) Encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of
13 Pennsylvania and Ireland.

14 (6) For the purposes of defraying the administrative
15 expenses of the commission and implementing and administering
16 the provisions of this chapter, raise and accept financial
17 assets through direct solicitations or other fundraising
18 events alone or in conjunction with other persons.

19 (7) Adopt bylaws, if necessary.

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

22 § 1509. Report.

23 The commission shall report its findings, results and
24 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly within
25 one year of the commission's initial organizational meeting and
26 by February 1 of each succeeding year for the activities in the
27 preceding calendar year. The report shall be in writing and
28 include recommendations as deemed appropriate by the commission
29 to effectuate the commission's purposes.

30 § 1510. Money, gifts, grants and bequests.

1 The commission is authorized to raise money through direct
2 solicitation and other fundraising events alone or with other
3 groups and accept gifts, grants and bequests from individuals,
4 corporations, foundations, governmental agencies and public and
5 private organizations and institutions to defray the
6 commission's administrative expenses and to carry out the
7 commission's purposes.

8 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.