

From: Ky Holland

To: House State Affairs

Re: HB 278 Conceptual Amendment

Passed w/o objection

Committee Explanation for Amendment

This amendment makes a small clarification to the purpose of the Alaska-Ireland Trade Commission by explicitly including **entrepreneurship and new venture development** within the types of exchanges the commission may promote. Ireland has become a major hub for startup ecosystems, university commercialization, and venture-backed companies, and Alaska is increasingly interested in growing similar innovation networks. Adding this language simply signals that the commission may also encourage collaboration between entrepreneurs, startups, universities, accelerators, and investors in both places. The amendment does not change the structure or duties of the commission; it only clarifies that these emerging economic sectors are included alongside traditional business and academic exchanges.

Amend **Sec. 44.33.440(c)(3)** as follows:

Current text:

(3) promote business and academic exchanges between the state and Ireland;

Proposed amendment (minimum change):

(3) promote business, **entrepreneurship, and new venture development** and academic exchanges between the state and Ireland;