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Gunther
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SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 278(STA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Offered:
Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES COSTELLO, McCabe, Edgmon, Hall, Vance, Tomaszewski, Bynum,
Josephson, Stapp, Story**

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska-Ireland Trade Commission; and providing for an**
2 **effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 44.33 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Article 7A. Alaska-Ireland Trade Commission.**

6 **Sec. 44.33.440. Alaska-Ireland Trade Commission.** (a) The Alaska-Ireland
7 Trade Commission is established in the department.

8 (b) The commission consists of the following members:

9 (1) five members appointed by the governor;

10 (2) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the
11 speaker of the house of representatives; and

12 (3) two members of the senate appointed by president of the senate.

13 (c) The members of the commission appointed under (b)(1) of this section
14 serve staggered three-year terms. The members of the commission appointed under

1 (b)(2) and (3) of this section serve two-year terms. A member of the commission
2 serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority.

3 (d) The purpose of the commission is to

4 (1) advance bilateral trade and investment between the state and
5 Ireland;

6 (2) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to the state
7 and Ireland;

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

10 (4) promote research collaborations and funding opportunities that
11 advance the mutual interests of the state and Ireland;

12 (5) encourage mutual economic support between the state and Ireland;

13 (6) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of the state and
14 Ireland; and

15 (7) address other issues as determined by the commission.

16 (e) The commission shall elect a chair from among its members. A majority of
17 the members of the commission constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

18 (f) Except for meetings held outside of the state that the commission
19 determines should be conducted in person, the commission shall meet by electronic
20 means. The commission shall provide public notice of a meeting at least seven days
21 before the meeting.

22 (g) If the department obtains the information required under (i)(1) of this
23 section and provides a copy of that information to the commission, the department
24 may accept a grant, donation, or gift from a public or private source to pay for

25 (1) per diem and travel expenses of the commission; or

26 (2) other assistance and support the commission requires to carry out
27 the purposes of this section .

28 (h) Except as permitted under (g)(1) of this section, members of the
29 commission serve without compensation and are not entitled to per diem and travel
30 expenses authorized by law under AS 39.20.180.

31 (i) By the 30th day of each regular legislative session, the commission shall

1 prepare a report, deliver the report to the governor, senate secretary, and chief clerk of
2 the house of representatives, and notify the legislature that the report is available. The
3 report must include

4 (1) information on the grants, donations, and gifts accepted under (g)
5 of this section in the previous year, including

6 (A) the date and amount or value of each grant, donation, and
7 gift;

8 (B) the total amount or value of all grants, donations, and gifts;

9 (C) the name and address of each person who made a grant,
10 donation, or gift, and the dates and total amount or value of the grants,
11 donations, or gifts; and

12 (D) for grants, donations, or gifts in excess of \$50 in the
13 aggregate during the previous year, the principal occupation and employer of
14 the person who made the grant, donation, or gift; and

15 (2) the commission's findings, results, and recommendations.

16 (j) The commission may not contract for writing services or support to prepare
17 the report required under (i) of this section unless a grant, donation, or gift is made for
18 that purpose under (g) of this section. The department may not provide staff to the
19 commission to provide writing services or support to prepare the report required under
20 (i) of this section.

21 (k) In this section, "department" means the Department of Commerce,
22 Community, and Economic Development.

23 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
24 read:

25 INITIAL APPOINTMENT; STAGGERED TERMS. Notwithstanding
26 AS 44.33.440(b)(1), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, the members of the Alaska-Ireland Trade
27 Commission appointed under AS 44.33.440(b)(1), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, are appointed
28 to initial terms as follows:

29 (1) one member shall serve a one-year term;

30 (2) two members shall serve two-year terms; and

31 (3) two members shall serve three-year terms.

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* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).