

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 278(STA)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/11/26

Referred: Rules

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 five members appointed by the governor. The  
9 members of the commission serve staggered three-year terms at the pleasure of the  
10 governor.

11 (c) The purpose of the commission is to

12 (1) advance bilateral trade and investment between the state and  
13 Ireland;

14 (2) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to the state

1 and Ireland;

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

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

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

7 (6) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of the state and  
8 Ireland; and

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

10 (d) The commission shall elect a chair from among its members. A majority of  
11 the members of the commission constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

12 (e) Except for meetings held outside of the state that the commission  
13 determines should be conducted in person, the commission shall meet by electronic  
14 means. The commission shall provide public notice of a meeting at least seven days  
15 before the meeting.

16 (f) If the department obtains the information required under (h)(1) of this  
17 section and provides a copy of that information to the commission, the department  
18 may accept a grant, donation, or gift from a public or private source to pay for

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

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

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

25 (h) By the 30th day of each regular legislative session, the commission shall  
26 prepare a report, deliver the report to the governor, senate secretary, and chief clerk of  
27 the house of representatives, and notify the legislature that the report is available. The  
28 report must include

29 (1) information on the grants, donations, and gifts accepted under (f) of  
30 this section in the previous year, including

31 (A) the date and amount or value of each grant, donation, and

1 gift;

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

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

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

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

10 (i) The commission may not contract for writing services or support to prepare  
11 the report required under (h) of this section unless a grant, donation, or gift is made for  
12 that purpose under (f) of this section. The department may not provide staff to the  
13 commission to provide writing services or support to prepare the report required under  
14 (h) of this section.

15 (j) In this section, "department" means the Department of Commerce,  
16 Community, and Economic Development.

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

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

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

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

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

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