



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Harry Coker, Jr. | Secretary of Commerce

DATE: February 12, 2026
BILL NO: Senate Bill 363
BILL TITLE: Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission - Membership and Termination - Altered and Extended
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 363 - Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission - Membership and Termination - Altered and Extended.

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 363 alters the membership of the Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission in Commerce, and extends its termination date from September 30, 2026 to September 30, 2028.

Background:

Chapter 409, Acts of 2024 established the Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission within the Department of Commerce to study and promote trade between Maryland and Ireland. The Commission began its work in earnest in July 2025, and in January 2026 it submitted a report with ten key recommendations in order to build upon the existing economic and cultural relationships between Maryland and Ireland.

Rationale:

Maryland and Ireland share similar strengths in life sciences, information technology, defense, and especially cybersecurity. In 2025, both Maryland and Ireland are recognized as global technological powerhouses, and both have firms that are looking to diversify their sales revenue by directing investment into the international markets to do so. According to The Bank of Ireland, Ireland delivers an outsized economic impact to the USA in terms of investment, buying billions of dollars of American goods and services and creating jobs in the USA. And Enterprise Ireland (EI), the Irish Government's enterprise development agency, states that Irish multinational companies are deeply embedded and invested in the US market with significant manufacturing footprint and employment across the USA. This substantial investment underscores the commitment of Irish enterprises to the US market and reflects a deepening economic interdependence between the two countries. The demand for a bilateral trade map between Maryland and Ireland is long overdue.

The Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission quickly evaluated the existing relationship between the State and Ireland and made recommendations to strengthen those ties for mutual benefits. Extending the termination date of the Commission will allow for additional time for work to be done in implementing the recommendations they made and experiencing the benefits of that work.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 363.