

Chapter 409

**(House Bill 1206)**

AN ACT concerning

**Maryland–Ireland Trade Commission – Establishment**

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland–Ireland Trade Commission in the Department of Commerce to study and make recommendations regarding certain trade relations between Maryland and Ireland; and generally relating to the Maryland–Ireland Trade Commission.

BY adding to

Article – Economic Development

Section 5–2501 through 5–2504 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 25.  
Maryland–Ireland Trade Commission”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Over 9% of Maryland’s population is of Irish descent; and

WHEREAS, The ties that bind Ireland to Maryland are deep and lasting; and

WHEREAS, Irish heritage has been the fortunate lot of many great Marylanders;  
and

WHEREAS, Ireland and Maryland are attempting to reinvent their economies for success in the twenty–first century; and

WHEREAS, Marylanders have both historic and practical reasons to desire the building of firmer commercial links with Ireland; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Economic Development**

**SUBTITLE 25. MARYLAND–IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION.**

**5–2501.**

**IN THIS SUBTITLE, “COMMISSION” MEANS THE MARYLAND–IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION.**

**5-2502.**

**(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

**(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO STUDY AND PROMOTE TRADE BETWEEN MARYLAND AND IRELAND.**

**5-2503.**

**(A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

**(1) THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

**(2) THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OR THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S DESIGNEE;**

**(3) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, WHO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTE IRISH AFFAIRS, OR CURRENT OR PAST INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTE IRISH AFFAIRS, OR HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE WELL-BEING OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN MARYLAND AND IRELAND;**

**(4) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE, WHO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTE IRISH AFFAIRS, OR CURRENT OR PAST INVOLVEMENT IN ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTE IRISH AFFAIRS, OR HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE WELL-BEING OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN MARYLAND AND IRELAND; AND**

**(5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE:**

**(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION;**

**(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION; AND**

**(III) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IRISH-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, WHO MAY NOT BE OF THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY.**

**(B) THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE ELECTED FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

**(C) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD:**

- (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD;**
- BUT**
- (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

**(D) ~~(1) THE TERM OF AN APPOINTED MEMBER IS 4 YEARS.~~**

~~**(2) THE TERMS OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE STAGGERED AS REQUIRED BY THE TERMS PROVIDED FOR MEMBERS ON OCTOBER 1, 2024.**~~

~~**(3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**~~

~~**(4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES ONLY FOR THE REST OF THE TERM UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**~~

~~**(5) THE GOVERNOR MAY REMOVE AN APPOINTED MEMBER FOR INCOMPETENCE, MISCONDUCT, OR FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE POSITION.**~~

**5-2504.**

**(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING:**

**(1) ADVANCING BILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN MARYLAND AND IRELAND;**

**(2) INITIATING JOINT ACTION ON POLICY ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO MARYLAND AND IRELAND;**

**(3) PROMOTING BUSINESS AND ACADEMIC EXCHANGES BETWEEN MARYLAND AND IRELAND;**

**(4) ENCOURAGING MUTUAL ECONOMIC SUPPORT BETWEEN MARYLAND AND IRELAND;**

**(5) ENCOURAGING MUTUAL INVESTMENT IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF MARYLAND AND IRELAND; AND**

**(6) OTHER ISSUES AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION.**

**(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2025, ~~AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER,~~ THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

~~(a) All initial appointments to the Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission shall be made not later than February 1, 2025.~~

~~(b) The terms of the initial appointed members of the Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission shall expire as follows:~~

~~(1) two members in 2025; and~~

~~(2) two members in 2026.~~

SECTION ~~2~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.**