

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 413 (Delegate Kerr, *et al.*)

Government, Labor, and Elections

Finance

Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission - Membership and Termination - Altered
and Extended

This bill maintains the Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission within the Department of Commerce for two more years by extending its termination date to September 30, 2028. The bill also modifies the composition of the commission by reducing representation from the Senate of Maryland and the House of Delegates (from two members each to one member each) and adding two members of the private sector in their stead (to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate). The commission must continue to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor, with annual reports due in December 2026 and 2027. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commerce can continue to support the commission with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law:

Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission – Responsibilities

Chapter 409 of 2024 established the Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission within Commerce to study and promote trade between Maryland and Ireland. More specifically, the commission must 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. The commission must report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Governor by December 1, 2025. The commission terminates September 30, 2026.

Maryland-Ireland Trade Commission – Membership

The commission consists of 10 members with specified affiliations:

- the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of State or their designees;
- two members of the Senate of Maryland and two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively – all of whom must either have knowledge of (or involvement in) organizations that promote Irish affairs or have an interest in the well-being of trade relations between Maryland and Ireland; and
- four members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate – more specifically, one representative of a public institution of higher education, one representative of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce or its successor organization, and two representatives of the Irish-American community (who may not be of the same political party).

The Governor may remove an appointed member for incompetence, misconduct, or failure to perform the duties of the position.

The chair and vice chair of the commission must be elected from among the members of the commission. A member of the commission may not receive compensation as a member of the commission but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses, as specified.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the past three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 363 (Senator Mautz) - Finance.

Information Source(s): Department of Commerce; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 10, 2026
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