



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

SJR24 ESTABLISHING THE ALABAMA-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the contributions of Ireland to our civilization have been enormous: through her missionaries and scholars, her achievements in science, literature, the arts, entrepreneurship, and music, and not least in the back-breaking labor borne by her sons and daughters without number who helped build our nation, all of which are the achievements of a people who only officially joined the family of nations 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, generations of Irish Alabamians and their descendants have left a lasting mark on our state and its heritage, such as pioneering educator Margaret Murray Washington, faithful witness Reverend James Coyle, and Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan; and

WHEREAS, as our respective economies increasingly diversify in the global economy, both the State of Alabama and the Republic of Ireland now participate in the global economy, with the value of Alabama's exports to Ireland increasing nearly 75 percent in 2021-2022 alone, while Irish companies such as James Hardie and CHR are investing directly in Alabama and its workers, we believe that our economic and cultural relationship with Ireland should no longer be taken for granted; now therefore,



28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
29 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the Alabama-Ireland Trade
30 Commission is created to foster closer ties of friendship
31 between the State of Alabama and the Republic of Ireland.

32 (a) The Alabama-Ireland Trade Commission shall be
33 comprised of the following members:

34 (1) A majority member and a minority member of the
35 Senate, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
36 Senate, with preference to be given to any senator who is a
37 member of the American Irish State Legislators Caucus or a
38 sponsor of this resolution.

39 (2) A majority member and a minority member of the
40 House of Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of
41 the House of Representatives, with preference to be given to
42 any representative who is a member of the American Irish
43 State Legislators Caucus or a sponsor of this resolution.

44 (3) The Chair of the Senate Fiscal Responsibility and
45 Economic Development Committee, or his or her designee.

46 (4) The Chair of the House of Representatives
47 Economic Development and Tourism Committee, or his or her
48 designee.

49 (5) The Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries,
50 or his or her designee.

51 (6) The Secretary of Commerce, or his or her
52 designee.

53 (7) The Director of the Alabama Port Authority, or
54 his or her designee.



55 (8) An individual recognized for his or her private
56 sector experience in international trade and exports to be
57 appointed by the Governor.

58 (9) An individual who is active in Irish-American
59 cultural and civic affairs, and who has a history of
60 cooperation in the legislative process, to be appointed by
61 the Lieutenant Governor.

62 (10) Two individuals from public higher education who
63 have experience or professional or academic interest in
64 Alabama-Ireland trade relations, to be appointed
65 respectively by the Chancellor of The University of Alabama
66 System and the President of Auburn University.

67 (11) The President of the Business Council of
68 Alabama, or his or her designee.

69 (12) The Alabama State Director of the National
70 Federation of Independent Business, or his or her designee.

71 (13) Up to 11 individuals active in international
72 trade or business, economic development, and cultural
73 exchange, to be appointed by the Government of Ireland.

74 (b) (1) The appointing authorities on behalf of the
75 State of Alabama shall coordinate their appointments to
76 assure the study commission membership is inclusive and
77 reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and
78 economic diversity of the state.

79 (2) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall
80 call the first meeting of the commission to be held at a
81 date no later than September 20, 2024, at which the members
82 shall elect a chair from among the legislative membership



83 and assign study and reporting responsibilities to the
84 members.

85 (3) The legislative members of the commission shall
86 be entitled to their legislative compensation, per diem, and
87 travel expenses for each day they attend a meeting of the
88 commission pursuant to Section 49 of the Constitution of
89 Alabama of 2022.

90 (4) The non-legislative members of the commission
91 from the State of Alabama shall serve without compensation
92 but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses in attending
93 commission meetings pursuant to the policies of the
94 respective appointing authority.

95 (c) (1) The commission shall meet as necessary to
96 conduct its business.

97 (2) A quorum for a meeting shall be 14 members.

98 (3) After the first meeting, the commission may meet
99 by electronic means.

100 (d) The purpose of the commission shall be to
101 accomplish the following:

102 (1) Advance bilateral trade and investment between
103 the State of Alabama and the Republic of Ireland.

104 (2) Encourage mutual investment in the State of
105 Alabama and the Republic of Ireland, especially in
106 infrastructure and human capital.

107 (3) Promote sustained business, educational, and
108 cultural exchanges, and policy issues of mutual benefit,
109 between the State of Alabama and the Republic of Ireland.



110 (e) The commission shall annually report to the
111 Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of
112 Representatives, and the Secretary of Commerce, no later
113 than the third day of the Regular Session of the Legislature
114 on the number of times it met during the preceding 12 months
115 and shall include minutes of its meetings, with any interim
116 recommendations or requests that may assist its work.

117 (f) Pursuant to Section 36-14-17.1, Code of Alabama
118 1975, the commission shall provide to the Secretary of State
119 a notice of all meetings, the name of each member serving on
120 the commission, and a copy of all reports and written
121 recommendations produced throughout the duration of the
122 commission.

123 (g) The Senate and the Legislative Services Agency
124 shall provide administrative and professional services as
125 needed to the commission.

126 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon enactment of this
127 resolution, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall
128 transmit a copy of this resolution to Senator Mark Daly,
129 Seanad Eireann; Ms. Caoimhe Ni Chonchuir, Consul General of
130 Ireland in Atlanta; Mr. Leo Clancy, Chief Executive Officer
131 of Enterprise Ireland; and Mr. Michael Lohan, Chief
132 Executive Officer of IDA Ireland.

133