

## HOUSE BILL No. 2344

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Requested by Representative Tarwater

2-7

---

1 AN ACT concerning economic development; relating to international  
2 trade; establishing the Kansas-Ireland trade commission to advance,  
3 promote and encourage business and other mutually beneficial  
4 activities between Kansas and Ireland; creating the Kansas-Ireland  
5 trade commission fund.  
6

7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas-Ireland trade  
9 commission. The commission shall consist of 13 members as follows:

10 (1) The chairperson of the senate standing committee on commerce  
11 and the chairperson of the house of representatives standing committee on  
12 commerce, labor and economic development, as appointed by the  
13 president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives,  
14 respectively;

15 (2) two members of the senate, one of whom shall be appointed by  
16 the president of the senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the  
17 minority leader of the senate. The appointees shall have interest in the  
18 well-being of trade relations between Kansas and Ireland and current or  
19 past involvement in businesses engaged in international trade, preferably  
20 with Ireland, or organizations that promote international trade or Irish  
21 affairs; and

22 (3) two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall  
23 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of  
24 whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
25 representatives. The appointees shall have interest in the well-being of  
26 trade relations between Kansas and Ireland and current or past  
27 involvement in businesses engaged in international trade, preferably with  
28 Ireland, or organizations that promote international trade or Irish affairs;

29 (4) six members, two of whom shall be selected by the governor, two  
30 by the speaker of the house of representatives and two by the president of  
31 the senate. The two members selected by the governor, speaker of the  
32 house of representatives and president of the senate, respectively, shall  
33 each be a representative of either:

34 (A) A Kansas postsecondary public education institution;

35 (B) the Irish American community in Kansas who is interested in

1 furthering trade between Kansas and Ireland;

2 (C) a Kansas industry engaged in or seeking to engage in trade with  
3 Ireland; or

4 (D) a Kansas business association, trade organization, economic  
5 development organization or chamber of commerce currently engaged in  
6 or interested in engaging in the furtherance of trade with Ireland; and

7 (5) the secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee who has  
8 responsibilities with respect to international trade.

9 (b) No public postsecondary educational institution, industry,  
10 business association, trade organization or chamber of commerce shall  
11 have more than one representative serving as a member of the  
12 commission. Not more than two representatives of the Kansas Irish  
13 community shall serve on the commission and, if more than one such  
14 representative is appointed to serve, such representatives shall not be  
15 members of the same political party.

16 (c) (1) Legislative members shall serve for a term corresponding to  
17 the two-year biennial legislative session in which they are appointed to the  
18 council and remain members of the legislature to retain membership on the  
19 council. Vacancies of legislative members shall be filled for the unexpired  
20 portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. The  
21 appointing authority for a legislative member may remove a member and  
22 substitute such member with another appointee at any time. Legislative  
23 members may be reappointed.

24 (2) All nonlegislative members shall serve a term of three years.  
25 Vacancies of nonlegislative members shall be filled for the unexpired  
26 portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. The  
27 appointing authority for the nonlegislative member may remove a member  
28 and substitute such member with another appointee at any time.  
29 Nonlegislative members may be reappointed.

30 (d) Members of the commission attending meetings of such  
31 commission or attending a subcommittee meeting thereof authorized by  
32 such commission shall be paid compensation, subsistence allowances,  
33 mileage and other expenses as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223, and  
34 amendments thereto, for each day or part thereof in which such member  
35 attended a meeting authorized by the commission. Members shall be  
36 reimbursed for other necessary and reasonable expenses actually incurred  
37 in the performance of the member's official duties. A members'  
38 compensation and expenses incurred from the attendance at meetings of  
39 the commission and any administrative expenses of the commission shall  
40 be paid from any account of the state general fund of the department of  
41 commerce as designated by the secretary of commerce.

42 (e) The commission shall hold meetings at least once each quarter.  
43 Meetings shall be held in Topeka, Kansas, and at the call of the

1 chairperson.

2 (f) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a  
3 quorum for the transaction of the business of the commission.

4 (g) The chairperson of the house of representatives standing  
5 committee on commerce, labor and economic development shall serve as  
6 the chairperson of the council when first organized and for the ensuing two  
7 years. The chairperson of the senate standing committee on commerce  
8 shall serve as the chairperson of the council for the next succeeding two  
9 years, and thereafter, the office of chairperson shall continue to alternate  
10 between the chambers.

11 (h) The chairperson may appoint from among the commission  
12 members subcommittees and subcommittee chairpersons.

13 (i) The commission shall keep records of all proceedings, which shall  
14 be public and open to inspection.

15 (j) The staff of the office of revisor of statutes, the legislative research  
16 department and the division of legislative administrative services shall  
17 provide such assistance as may be requested by the chairperson.

18 Sec. 2. (a) The purpose of the Kansas-Ireland trade commission shall  
19 be to advance, promote and encourage business and other mutually  
20 beneficial activities between Kansas and Ireland, including:

- 21 (1) Bilateral trade and investment;  
22 (2) joint action on policy issues of mutual interest;  
23 (3) business and academic exchanges;  
24 (4) mutual economic support;  
25 (5) mutual investment in respective infrastructure; and  
26 (6) other opportunities for mutual benefit and economic growth as  
27 identified by the commission.

28 (b) The commission shall report findings, activities, results and  
29 recommendations concerning subsection (a) to the governor and the  
30 legislature within one year of the commission's initial meeting and by  
31 February 1 of each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding  
32 calendar year. The report shall be in writing and may include  
33 recommendations or proposed legislation as deemed appropriate by the  
34 commission to effectuate the commission's purpose.

35 (c) The Kansas-Ireland trade commission shall be authorized to raise  
36 funds to carry out the purposes of the commission. Such funds may be  
37 raised through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, either alone  
38 or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants and bequests from  
39 individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies and public  
40 and private organizations and institutions. All such funds, gifts, grants or  
41 bequests received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in the Kansas-  
42 Ireland trade commission fund established in section 4, and amendments  
43 thereto, and all expenditures from such fund shall be for the purposes of

1 the commission and upon the majority vote of the commission.

2 Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury the  
3 Kansas-Ireland trade commission fund which shall be administered by the  
4 chairperson of the Kansas-Ireland trade commission or the chairperson's  
5 designee. At the request of the chairperson, the secretary of commerce or  
6 the secretary's designee shall serve as the designee of the chairperson with  
7 respect to administration of the fund. All moneys received from any  
8 private donation, gift, grant or bequest made to the commission for the  
9 purposes of this act shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance  
10 with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon  
11 receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire  
12 amount in the state treasury to the credit of the Kansas-Ireland trade  
13 commission fund. All expenditures from the Kansas-Ireland trade  
14 commission fund shall be for furthering the purposes of the Kansas-Ireland  
15 trade commission upon a majority vote of the commission and in  
16 accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of  
17 accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the  
18 chairperson of the Kansas-Ireland trade commission or the chairperson's  
19 designee.

20 (b) On or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, the director of accounts and  
21 reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the Kansas-Ireland  
22 trade commission fund interest earnings based on:

23 (1) The average daily balance of moneys in the Kansas-Ireland trade  
24 commission fund for the preceding month; and

25 (2) the net earnings rate for the pooled money investment portfolio  
26 for the preceding month.

27 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
28 publication in the statute book.