

HOUSE BILL No. 2580

By Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

Requested by Representative K. Williams

1-28

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

7

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

9 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas international
10 trade commission. The commission shall consist of 16 members as
11 follows:

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

17 (2) (A) (i) three members of the senate, two of whom shall be
18 appointed by the president of the senate and one of whom shall be
19 appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and

20 (ii) three members of the house of representatives, two of whom shall
21 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of
22 whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of
23 representatives.

24 (B) Such appointees shall have interest in the well-being of trade
25 relations between Kansas and other countries, particularly Ireland, Japan
26 or Taiwan, and current or past involvement in businesses engaged in
27 international trade, preferably with such countries or organizations that
28 promote international trade or Kansas-Irish, Kansas-Japanese or Kansas-
29 Taiwanese affairs;

30 (3) seven members, three of whom shall be appointed by the
31 governor, two by the speaker of the house of representatives and two by
32 the president of the senate. The members appointed by the governor,
33 speaker of the house of representatives and president of the senate shall
34 each be a representative of either:

35 (A) A Kansas postsecondary public education institution;

1 (B) the Kansas-Irish, Kansas-Japanese or Kansas-Taiwanese
2 community in Kansas who is interested in furthering trade between Kansas
3 and Ireland, Japan or Taiwan;

4 (C) a Kansas industry engaged in or seeking to engage in trade with
5 Ireland, Japan or Taiwan; or

6 (D) a Kansas business association, trade organization, economic
7 development organization or chamber of commerce engaged in or
8 interested in engaging in the furtherance of trade with Ireland, Japan and
9 Taiwan

10 (4) the secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee who has
11 responsibilities with respect to international trade.

12 (b) No public postsecondary educational institution, business
13 association, trade organization or chamber of commerce shall have more
14 than one representative serving as a member of the commission.

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

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

29 (d) A member of the commission attending meetings of such
30 commission or attending a subcommittee meeting thereof authorized by
31 such commission shall be paid compensation, subsistence allowances,
32 mileage and other expenses as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223, and
33 amendments thereto, for each day or part thereof in which such member
34 attended a meeting authorized by the commission, except that no state
35 funds shall be used for mileage or other travel expenses for travel outside
36 the state of Kansas for members who are not state employees. Members
37 who are not state employees may be reimbursed for mileage or other travel
38 expenses for travel outside the state of Kansas from donations, grants or
39 other nonpublic funds available to the commission pursuant to section 2,
40 and amendments thereto. A member shall be reimbursed for other
41 necessary and reasonable expenses actually incurred in the performance of
42 such member's official duties. Compensation, allowances and expenses
43 incurred from the attendance at meetings of the commission and any

1 administrative expenses of the commission shall be paid from any account
2 of the state general fund of the department of commerce as designated by
3 the secretary of commerce. No reimbursement shall be made for remote
4 attendance at meetings.

5 (e) The commission shall hold meetings at least once each quarter.
6 Meetings shall be held in Topeka, Kansas, at the call of the chairperson.
7 Meetings may be held remotely or members may participate remotely via
8 video conference at the discretion of the chairperson. Upon the
9 chairperson's request, the secretary of commerce shall provide appropriate
10 meeting facilities for the commission. Meetings shall be open to the
11 public.

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

14 (g) The chairperson of the house of representatives standing
15 committee on commerce, labor and economic development shall serve as
16 the chairperson of the council when first organized and for the ensuing two
17 years. The chairperson of the senate standing committee on commerce
18 shall serve as the chairperson of the council for the next succeeding two
19 years, and thereafter, the office of chairperson shall continue to alternate
20 between the chambers.

21 (h) The chairperson may appoint subcommittees and subcommittee
22 chairpersons from among the commission members. Expenses of members
23 for attendance at subcommittee meetings shall not be reimbursable unless
24 such meetings are approved by the legislative coordinating council. Any
25 such reimbursement shall be made as provided by subsection (d).

26 (i) The commission shall keep records of all proceedings. Such
27 records shall be public and open to inspection.

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

31 Sec. 2. (a) The purposes of the Kansas international trade commission
32 shall be to advance, promote and encourage business and other mutually
33 beneficial activities between Kansas and other countries, particularly
34 Ireland, Japan and Taiwan, including:

35 (1) Bilateral trade and investment between Kansas and other
36 countries, particularly Ireland, Japan or Taiwan;

37 (2) mutual action on policy issues of mutual interest;

38 (3) business and academic exchanges;

39 (4) mutual economic support;

40 (5) mutual investment in respective infrastructure; and

41 (6) other opportunities for mutual benefit and economic growth as
42 identified by the commission.

43 (b) The secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee who has

1 responsibilities with respect to international trade shall prepare and present
2 to the commission at the commission's first meeting a report on Kansas
3 international business and trade activity, expenditures and opportunities for
4 expansion, in general and specifically with Ireland, Japan and Taiwan.
5 Such report shall be updated by the secretary or secretary's designee
6 quarterly and include any other nonconfidential international business or
7 trade information as may be requested by the commission.

8 (c) The commission shall report findings, activities, results and
9 recommendations to the governor and the legislature within one year of the
10 commission's initial meeting and by February 1 of each succeeding year
11 for the activities of the preceding calendar year. The report shall be in
12 writing and may include recommendations or proposed legislation as
13 deemed appropriate by the commission to effectuate the commission's
14 purposes.

15 (d) (1) The commission shall be authorized to raise funds to carry out
16 the purposes of the commission and accept gifts, grants and bequests from
17 individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies and public
18 and private organizations and institutions. All such funds, gifts, grants or
19 bequests received shall be deposited in the Kansas international trade
20 commission fund established in section 3, and amendments thereto, and all
21 expenditures from such fund shall be for the purposes of the commission
22 and authorized upon the majority vote of the commission.

23 (2) The commission shall prepare an annual written accounting and
24 report of all gifts, grants, bequests or other funds received by the
25 commission pursuant to paragraph (1). Such report shall be provided on or
26 before February 1 of each year to the legislative coordinating council, the
27 house committee on commerce, labor and economic development and the
28 senate committee on commerce.

29 Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury the Kansas
30 international trade commission fund, which shall be administered by the
31 chairperson of the Kansas international trade commission or the
32 chairperson's designee. At the request of the chairperson or the vote of the
33 commission, the secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee shall
34 serve as the designee of the chairperson with respect to the administration
35 of the fund. All moneys received from any private donation, gift, grant or
36 bequest made to such trade commission for the purposes of this act shall
37 be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of
38 K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such
39 remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state
40 treasury to the credit of the Kansas international trade commission fund.
41 All expenditures from such fund shall be for the purposes of the Kansas
42 international trade commission, authorized upon a majority vote of the
43 commission and made in accordance with appropriation acts upon

1 warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to
2 vouchers approved by the chairperson of the Kansas international trade
3 commission or the chairperson's designee.

4 (b) On or before the 10th of each month, the director of accounts and
5 reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the Kansas
6 international trade commission fund interest earnings based on:

7 (1) The average daily balance of moneys in such fund for the
8 preceding month; and

9 (2) the net earnings rate for the pooled money investment portfolio
10 for the preceding month.

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