



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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*This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.*

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**Bill Number:** S. 0621      Signed by Governor on May 13, 2024  
**Author:** Reichenbach  
**Subject:** SC Ireland Trade Commission  
**Requestor:** Senate  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Griffith and Wren  
**Impact Date:** May 21, 2024

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill establishes the South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission (Commission) to advance bilateral trade and investment between South Carolina and Ireland. The Commission must consist of fifteen members as specified in the bill. The bill also specifies that all funds, gifts, grants, or bequests of the Commission must be appropriated to the Department of Commerce (Commerce) and used to defray the Commission's administrative expenses. The bill further allows Commerce to use funds appropriated for Foreign Operations to fund the administrative expenses and carry out the purposes of the Commission if sufficient non-appropriated funds are not available.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Office of the Governor, the Department of Agriculture, or the Office of the Treasurer.

The Department of Commerce estimates that expenditures could increase by a range of \$100,000 to \$200,000 for meeting expenses, marketing, lead generation, and travel, depending on the Commission's level of activity. These expenditures will be offset by any funds raised by the Commission.

The amount of funds that will be raised or given to the Commission is unknown. Therefore, the impact on Other Funds revenue of the South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission is undetermined.

### **Explanation of Fiscal Impact**

**Signed by Governor on May 13, 2024**

#### **State Expenditure**

This bill establishes the South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission to advance bilateral trade and investment between South Carolina and Ireland. The Commission must consist of fifteen members as follows:

- Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two of which must be members of the House of Representatives;
- Four members appointed by the President of the Senate, two of which must be members of the Senate; and

- Seven members appointed by the Governor as follows:
  - The Secretary of Commerce;
  - The Commissioner of Agriculture or his designee;
  - Two representatives of state institutions of higher education;
  - Two members representing Irish Americans in South Carolina or Irish-American communities; and
  - One representative of a South Carolina business organization or trade organization.

Members of the Commission must serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limit of funds appropriated to the Commission or otherwise made available for its purposes.

The Commission must report its finding, results, and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly within one year of its initial organization meeting and by February first each year thereafter. The Commission is authorized to raise funds and accept gifts, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions. The funds raised or accepted must be deposited in an account with the State Treasurer and annually appropriated to Commerce to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and carry out its purposes. Commerce may use funds appropriated for Foreign Operations to fund the administrative expenses and to carry out the purposes of the Commission to the extent that sufficient non-appropriated funds are not available. Foreign Operations appropriations may also be used for any non-administrative expenses of the Commission with approval of the Secretary of Commerce. Further, any expenditures made for the purposes of administering the Commission and fulfilling its purposes are exempt from the provisions of Title 11, Chapter 35, the SC Consolidated Procurement Code.

**Department of Commerce.** Commerce indicates that costs for meeting expenditures, marketing, lead generation, and travel could increase by a range of \$100,000 to \$200,000 per year, depending on the Commission's activity. These costs will be offset by any funds raised by the Commission.

**House of Representatives and Senate.** The four members of the Commission from the House of Representatives and the four members of the Commission from the Senate could each receive per diem of \$50, subsistence of \$231.73, and \$0.67 per mile for each meeting attended, subject to certain limitations. Both legislative bodies will manage any costs associated with the bill within their existing appropriations.

**Office of the Governor.** Appointments made by the Governor are conducted in the normal course of business. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the Governor's Office.

**Department of Agriculture.** This bill will have no expenditure impact on the Department of Agriculture because the bill charges the department with additional responsibilities that the agency can accomplish with existing resources.

**Office of the Treasurer.** The Treasurer's Office will manage any costs associated with additional responsibilities within existing resources.

**State Revenue**

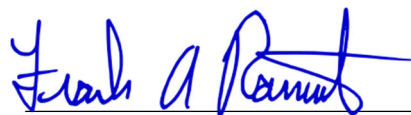
The amount of funds that will be raised or given to the Commission is unknown. Therefore, the impact on Other Funds revenue of the South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission is undetermined.

**Local Expenditure**

N/A

**Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director