

# **REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

(Caskey, Hosey, Whitmire, Lowe, & Weeks – Staff Contact: Abby Berquist)

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## **SENATE BILL 621**

S. 621 – Senators Reichenbach, Stephens, Cromer, Kimbrell, M. Johnson, Fanning, Setzler, Bennett, Shealy, Rice, Williams, Allen, Garrett, Loftis, Sabb and Gustafson. TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 79 TO TITLE 39 SO AS TO CREATE THE “SOUTH CAROLINA IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION”, TO PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE TRADE COMMISSION, AND TO ESTABLISH THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

*Received by Ways and Means: February 6, 2024*

***Summary of Bill:***

This bill creates the South Carolina Ireland Trade Commission, consisting of fifteen uncompensated appointees. The Commission will encourage trade, investment, joint policy action, business and academic exchanges, and other relevant activities between South Carolina and Ireland. The bill authorizes the Commission to raise and receive funds which will be managed by the Department of Commerce. The Commission will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly each year.

***Estimated Revenue Impact:***

None

***Subcommittee Action/Explanation:***

S. 621 received favorable report (5-0) with support from Representative Herbkersman and Representative Bauer.

***Full Committee Action/Explanation:***

***Other Notes/Comments:***



**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    Introduced on March 14, 2023  
**Author:** Reichenbach  
**Subject:** SC Ireland Trade Commission  
**Requestor:** Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Griffith  
**Impact Date:** April 25, 2023

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill establishes the South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission (Commission), which shall consist of four members of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, four members of the General Assembly appointed by the President of the Senate, and seven members appointed by the Governor. Three of the members appointed by the Governor must be the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and one representative from the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce or a trade organization.

Members of the Commission shall 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 to it. 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 the Department of Commerce to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and carry out its purposes.

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

**Introduced on March 14, 2023**

### **State Expenditure**

This bill establishes the South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission in order to advance bilateral trade and investment between South Carolina and Ireland. The Commission shall consist of four members of the General Assembly appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, four members of the General Assembly appointed by the President of the Senate, and seven members appointed by the Governor. These members must include:

- the Secretary of the Department of Commerce or his designee,
- the Commissioner of Agriculture or his designee,
- one representative of a state institution of higher education,
- at least two members representing Irish Americans, and
- one representative of the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce or a trade organization.

Members of the Commission shall 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 to it. 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 the Department of Commerce to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and carry out its purposes.

**Department of Commerce.** The Department of 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 \$223.17, and \$0.655 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

**South Carolina General Assembly**  
125th Session, 2023-2024

**S. 621**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Senators Reichenbach, Stephens, Cromer, Kimbrell, M. Johnson, Fanning, Setzler, Bennett, Shealy, Rice, Williams, Allen, Garrett, Loftis, Sabb and Gustafson

Companion/Similar bill(s): 4135

Document Path: LC-0267SA23.docx

Introduced in the Senate on March 14, 2023

Introduced in the House on February 6, 2024

Last Amended on February 1, 2024

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Ways and Means**

Summary: SC Ireland Trade Commission

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Body</u>	<u>Action Description with journal page number</u>
3/14/2023	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 5)
3/14/2023	Senate	Referred to Committee on <b>Labor, Commerce and Industry</b> (Senate Journal-page 5)
1/25/2024	Senate	Committee report: Favorable with amendment <b>Labor, Commerce and Industry</b> (Senate Journal-page 7)
1/26/2024		Scrivener's error corrected
1/30/2024		Scrivener's error corrected
2/1/2024	Senate	Committee Amendment Adopted (Senate Journal-page 18)
2/1/2024	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 18)
2/1/2024	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 18)
2/1/2024	Senate	Roll call Ayes-45 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 18)
2/1/2024	Senate	Unanimous consent for third reading on next legislative day (Senate Journal-page 18)
2/2/2024	Senate	Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal-page 1)
2/2/2024		Scrivener's error corrected
2/6/2024	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 11)
2/6/2024	House	Referred to Committee on <b>Ways and Means</b> (House Journal-page 11)

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

03/14/2023

01/25/2024

01/26/2024

01/30/2024

02/01/2024

02/02/2024

1 ~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

2 Indicates New Matter

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4 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT ADOPTED AND AMENDED

5 February 1, 2024

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**S. 621**

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9 Introduced by Senators Reichenbach, Stephens, Cromer, Kimbrell, M. Johnson, Fanning, Setzler,  
10 Bennett, Shealy, Rice, Williams, Allen, Loftis, Sabb, Gustafson and Garrett

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12 S. Printed 02/01/24--S.

[SEC 2/2/2024 12:28 PM]

13 Read the first time March 14, 2023

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**A BILL**

11 TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING CHAPTER 79 TO TITLE  
12 39 SO AS TO CREATE THE "SOUTH CAROLINA-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION", TO  
13 PROVIDE FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE TRADE COMMISSION, AND TO ESTABLISH THE  
14 DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

15 Amend Title To Conform

16

17 Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

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19 SECTION 1. Title 39 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

20

21

CHAPTER 79

22

23

South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission

24

25 Section 39-79-100. (A) There is established the "South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission" which  
26 is created to advance bilateral trade and investment between South Carolina and Ireland. The trade  
27 commission shall consist of fifteen members to be appointed as follows:

28 (1) four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two of which must  
29 be members of the House of Representatives;

30 (2) four members appointed by the President of the Senate, two of which must be members of the  
31 Senate; and

32 (3) seven members appointed by the Governor:

33 (a) the Secretary of the Department of Commerce or his designee;

34 (b) the Commissioner of Agriculture or his designee;

35 (c) two representatives of state institutions of higher education;

36 (d) two members representing Irish Americans in South Carolina or Irish-American  
37 communities; and

38 (e) one representative of a South Carolina business organization or a trade organization.

39 (B) The members of the commission must be appointed for terms of four years each and until their  
40 successors are appointed and qualify, except that the seven members appointed by the Governor shall

1 serve initial terms of two years each, the four members appointed by the President of the Senate shall  
2 serve initial terms of three years each, and the four members appointed by the Speaker shall serve initial  
3 terms of four years each. Members may be reappointed and must include:

4 (1) the Secretary of the Department of Commerce or his designee;

5 (2) the Commissioner of Agriculture or his designee;

6 (3) one representative of a state institution of higher education;

7 (4) at least two members representing Irish Americans in South Carolina or Irish-American  
8 communities; and

9 (5) one representative of a South Carolina business organization or a trade organization.

10 (C) All appointments must be made no later than ninety days following the date of enactment of this  
11 act. A vacancy in the membership of the commission must be filled in the same manner as the original  
12 appointment was made.

13 (D) Members of the commission shall serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for  
14 expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties, within the limit of funds appropriated to  
15 the commission or otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

16 (E) The commission shall meet and hold hearings at the places it designates throughout the State.

17 (F) The Governor shall designate a chairperson or cochairpersons from among the members of the  
18 commission, who shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the Governor. The chairperson or  
19 cochairpersons, as appropriate may appoint from among the commission members subcommittees or  
20 subcommittee chairpersons at their discretion. A majority of the members of the commission shall  
21 constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the commission.

22 (G)(1) The purpose of the South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission is to:

23 (a) advance bilateral trade and investment between South Carolina and Ireland;

24 (b) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to South Carolina and Ireland;

25 (c) promote business and academic exchanges between South Carolina and Ireland;

26 (d) encourage mutual economic support between South Carolina and Ireland;

27 (e) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of South Carolina and Ireland; and

28 (f) address such other issues as determined by the commission.

29 (2) The commission shall report its findings, results, and recommendations to the Governor, and  
30 the General Assembly pursuant to this chapter, within one year of its initial organizational meeting and  
31 by February first of each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar year. The report  
32 must be in writing and include recommendations as is considered appropriate by the commission to  
33 effectuate its purpose, as provided by this section.

34 (3) The South Carolina-Ireland Trade Commission is authorized to raise funds, through direct  
35 solicitation or other fundraising events, alone or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants, and  
36 bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private



1 organizations and institutions, to defray the commission's administrative expenses and to carry out its  
2 purposes as set forth in this chapter. The funds, gifts, grants, or bequests received pursuant to this  
3 section must be deposited in an account with the State Treasurer and allocated and annually  
4 appropriated to the Department of Commerce to defray the commission's administrative expenses and  
5 carry out its purposes. The Department of Commerce may use funds appropriated for Foreign  
6 Operations to fund the administrative expenses and carry out the purposes of the commission to the  
7 extent that sufficient non-appropriated funds are not available. Foreign Operations appropriations may  
8 also be used for any non-administrative expenses of the commission with approval of the Secretary of  
9 Commerce. Expenditures made for the purposes of administering the commission and fulfilling its  
10 purposes shall be exempt from the provisions of Title 11, Chapter 35 of the code.

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12 SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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