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April 1, 2024

ENGROSSED HOUSE
BILL NO. 3305

By: McBride, Bennett, Hill, and
Lepak of the House

and

McCortney of the Senate

An Act relating to the Oklahoma Ireland Trade Commission; providing for membership prescribing terms; prescribing qualifications for certain members; providing for filling of vacancies; providing for removal of members; providing for frequency of meetings; prescribing quorum requirement; providing for creation of committees and subcommittees; providing for retention of records; providing for staff assistance; imposing duties on Commission; requiring report; requiring recommendations; authorizing receipt of various revenues; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 691 of Title 74, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby established the Oklahoma Ireland Trade Commission. The Commission shall consist of nine (9) members, to be appointed as follows:

1 1. Two persons to be appointed by the Governor;

2 2. Two persons to be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma
3 House of Representatives;

4 3. Two persons to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of
5 the Oklahoma State Senate;

6 4. A person to be appointed by the minority leader of the
7 Oklahoma House of Representatives;

8 5. A person to be appointed by the minority leader of the
9 Oklahoma State Senate; and

10 6. A person to be appointed by the Executive Director of the
11 Oklahoma Department of Commerce.

12 B. The two members selected by the Governor, the Speaker of the
13 Oklahoma House of Representatives, and President Pro Tempore of the
14 Oklahoma State Senate, respectively, shall each be a representative
15 of either:

16 1. An Oklahoma public institution of higher learning;

17 2. The Irish American community in Oklahoma who is interested
18 in furthering trade between Oklahoma and Ireland;

19 3. An Oklahoma industry engaged in or seeking to engage in
20 trade with Ireland; or

21 4. An Oklahoma business association, trade organization,
22 economic development organization or chamber of commerce currently
23 engaged in or interested in engaging in the furtherance of trade
24 with Ireland.

1 C. Legislative members shall serve for the two-year biennial
2 legislative session in which they are appointed to the Commission
3 and shall remain members of the Legislature in order to retain
4 membership on the Commission. Vacancies of legislative members
5 during a term shall be filled in the same manner as the original
6 appointment only for the unexpired part of the term. The appointing
7 authority for the legislative member may remove the member and
8 substitute another appointee for the member at any time. Members
9 may be reappointed.

10 D. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original
11 appointment only for the unexpired part of the term.

12 E. The appointing authority for the member may remove the
13 member and substitute another appointee for the member at any time.

14 F. The Commission shall hold meetings at least once each
15 quarter. Meetings shall be held at the call of the chair.

16 G. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute
17 a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Commission.

18 H. The chair may appoint from among the Commission members
19 subcommittees and subcommittee chairs.

20 I. The Commission shall keep records of all proceedings which
21 shall be public and open to inspection.

22 J. Staff assistance shall be provided by the Oklahoma House of
23 Representatives and the Oklahoma State Senate.

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 692 of Title 74, unless there is
3 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 A. The purpose of the Oklahoma Ireland Trade Commission shall
5 be to advance, promote, and encourage business and other mutually
6 beneficial activities between Oklahoma and Ireland, including:

- 7 1. Bilateral trade and investment;
 - 8 2. Joint action on policy issues of mutual interest;
 - 9 3. Business and academic exchanges;
 - 10 4. Mutual economic support;
 - 11 5. Mutual investment in the respective infrastructure; and
 - 12 6. Other opportunities for mutual benefit and economic growth
- 13 as identified by the Commission.

14 B. The Commission shall report its findings, activities,
15 results, and recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the
16 Oklahoma House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of
17 the Oklahoma State Senate within one (1) year of its initial meeting
18 and by February 1st of each succeeding year for the activities of
19 the preceding calendar year. The report shall be in writing and may
20 include recommendations or proposed legislation as deemed
21 appropriate by the Commission to effectuate its purpose.

22 C. The Oklahoma Ireland Trade Commission shall be authorized to
23 raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising
24 events, alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants, and

1 bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental
2 agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions, to
3 carry out its purposes.

4 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND COMMERCE
6 April 1, 2024 - DO PASS
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