

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATOR MIZELL AND REPRESENTATIVE HILFERTY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To establish the Louisiana-Ireland Trade Commission.

WHEREAS, a significant portion of Louisiana residents are of Irish descent whose ancestors immigrated from Ireland and settled in numerous locations throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the ties that bind Ireland to Louisiana are deep lasting and to honor those of Irish descent in our state, the legislature designates the month of March of each year as "Irish-American Heritage Month"; and

WHEREAS, Ireland and Louisiana are attempting to reinvent their economies for success in the twenty-first century; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has both historic and practical reasons to desire the building of stronger commercial links with Ireland and for these reasons, there is hereby established the Louisiana-Ireland Trade Commission; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Louisiana-Ireland Trade Commission shall be to:

- (1) Advance bilateral trade and investment between Louisiana and Ireland.
- (2) Initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to Louisiana and Ireland.
- (3) Promote business and academic exchanges between Louisiana and Ireland.
- (4) Encourage mutual economic support between Louisiana and Ireland.
- (5) Encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of Louisiana and Ireland.
- (6) Address any other issue as determined by the commission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana establishes the Louisiana-Ireland Trade Commission to reinvent the economies of Louisiana and Ireland for success, build a stronger commercial link with Ireland, and to propose recommendations, together with specific proposals for legislation, by written report to the governor, to the Legislature of Louisiana, and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as

required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than March 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana-Ireland Trade Commission shall be comprised of the following members:

(1) Two members of the Senate or their designee, appointed by the president of the Senate.

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives or their designee, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) Five members of the commission shall be appointed by the governor; which members appointed shall include at least one representative from a public institution of higher education and at least two public members representing Irish-American communities or interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all appointments shall be made no later than September 1, 2024, and a vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall meet as necessary and shall report its findings, results, and recommendations to the governor, the Legislature of Louisiana, and to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library. The report shall be in writing and include recommendations as deemed appropriate by the commission to effectuate its purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall convene its first meeting no later than October 1, 2024, at the call of the Senate president, and at the first meeting, the members shall elect a chairman and other officers as the commission may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and all official actions of the commission shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the commission shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expense reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Senate Legislative Services shall provide staff support for the commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission shall terminate on the date of the submission of its report or August 1, 2025, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Legislature and Governor Jeff Landry.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES