

2025 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HB 1568

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Pioneer Room, State Capitol

HB 1568
1/31/2025

Relating to the creation of the North Dakota Ireland trade commission; and to provide for a legislative management report.

11:45 a.m. Chairman Schauer opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Schauer, Vice Chairman Satrom, Representatives Bahl, Brown, Christy, Grindberg, Karls, McLeod, Rohr, Schneider, Steiner, VanWinkle, Vetter, Wolff

Discussion Topics:

- Benefits to North Dakota and Ireland

11:46 a.m. Representative Schneider, District 21, introduced the bill and submitted testimony, #33071.

11:47 a.m. Mark Daly, Leader of the Irish Senate, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #33034.

12:02 p.m. John Schneider, Business, Marketing, and Information Director of the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #33066.

12:04 p.m. Carol Two Eagles testified in favor.

12:05 p.m. Drew Combs, Executive Director of the North Dakota Trade Office, provided neutral testimony.

12:09 p.m. Chairman Schauer closed the hearing.

12:10 p.m. Representative Bahl moved a Do Pass.

12:10 p.m. Representative Steiner seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Austen Schauer	Y
Representative Bernie Satrom	Y
Representative Landon Bahl	Y
Representative Collette Brown	Y
Representative Josh Christy	Y
Representative Karen Grindberg	Y
Representative Karen Karls	Y
Representative Carrie McLeod	Y
Representative Karen Rohr	Y
Representative Mary Schneider	Y

Representative Vicky Steiner	Y
Representative Lori VanWinkle	AB
Representative Steve Vetter	Y
Representative Christina Wolff	N

12:11 p.m. Motion passed 12-1-1

Representative Schneider will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Carol Murphy, New Jersey Legislator, submitted testimony in favor #32038.
Roger Hanshaw, West Virginia Speaker of the House, submitted testimony in favor #32044.

Cale Dunwoody, Vice President of Public Policy of the FMWF Chamber of Commerce, submitted testimony in favor, #32850.
Andrea Pfenig, Vice President, Government Affairs of GNDC, submitted testimony in favor, #33085.
Timothy Mahomey, Mayor of Fargo, submitted testimony in favor, #33111.

12:12 p.m. Chairman Schauer adjourned the meeting.

Jackson Toman, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1568 ([25.0954.02000](#))

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Schauer, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1568 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CAROL A. MURPHY
MAJORITY WHIP
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
504 ROUTE 130 NORTH
SUITE 100
CINNAMINSON, NJ 08077
(856) 735-5334
ASWMURPHY@NJLEG.ORG

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY, VICE CHAIR
BUDGET
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE

Re: NJ Ireland Trade Commission Legislation in the Department of State

Dear Colleague,

Please be advised that in July 2023, my legislation establishing the Ireland Trade Commission in the Department of State was passed and Signed by the Governor of the State of New Jersey.

On the day of the signing of the Ireland Trade Commission Legislation into law by Governor Murphy it was an honor and privilege to present a copy of the bill to Ireland's Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Sean Fleming.

Minister of State Fleming, upon the receipt of a copy of the legislation, said,

"The establishment of the new Trade Commission is a sign of the desire to strengthen those links. The Irish Government is very supportive of the new Trade Commission, I look forward to working with its members to explore trade opportunities and academic exchanges between our young people."

In 2022, I arranged for a delegation of the America Irish State Legislators from New Jersey to visit Ireland. The American Irish State Legislative Caucus is open to everyone those who have Irish heritage and those are supporters of Ireland

The caucus members asked how we could help build the links between Ireland and New Jersey as well as support the peace process and the Good Friday Agreement, this legislation was the result of those discussions. The New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission will help communities in our State through the creation of educational, economic, and people to people links. Ireland is the ninth (9th) largest investor in the US, the Ireland Trade Commission is intended to build on the two-way relationship.

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**Re: NJ Ireland Trade Commission Legislation in the
Department of State**

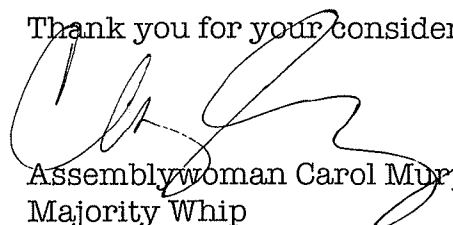
As a result of the Brexit agreement following the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, Ireland is the largest English-speaking country with direct access to the EU market of 450 million people, there are also 950 US companies based in Ireland using it as a gateway to the EU.

The legislation can be adopted as it is or amended to the respective needs of each state. The key elements of the commission legislation include:

- There is no cost to the taxpayer in the State as the Commission raises the funds to do its work, to visit Ireland and host visiting Irish Delegations.
- Twenty-three (23) people are appointed to the Ireland Trade Commission in New Jersey by the Governor, and legislative leaders in New Jersey.
- Members are appointed by the Chambers of Commerce in the State and by Department of Higher Education.
- Appointments to the commission could also include retired members of the State or Federal Legislatures so that institutional knowledge is retained. Leaders of the business community in the State with an interest in Ireland could also be appointed to the commission.

If you need any further information, regarding this piece of legislation please do not hesitate to contact my office at (856) 735-5334 or via email to AswMurphy@njleg.org.

Thank you for your consideration,



Assemblywoman Carol Murphy
Majority Whip



ROGER HANSHAW
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

304-340-3210
ROGER.HANSHAW@WVHOUSE.GOV

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM M-228
1900 KANAWHA BOULEVARD, EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305

April 23, 2024

State Legislative Leaders

Dear Colleagues:

The Ireland Trade Commission legislation was drafted by a member of the New Jersey American Irish State Legislators Caucus following their trip to Ireland in 2022. The members of the Caucus asked after their visit to Belfast how they could help support the peace process and the Good Friday Agreement and this legislation was the result of those discussions. With this Commission States are helping communities in Ireland but also helping communities in their own State through the creation of educational, economic, governmental, and person to person links.

As a result of the Brexit agreement following the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union, Northern Ireland uniquely now has access to both the UK market of 67 million people and the European Union (EU) market of 450 million people. The Republic of Ireland also has direct access to the EU market. There are 950 US companies based in Ireland using it as a gateway to the EU. Ireland is also the 9th largest investor in the US. The Ireland Trade Commission is intended to build on this two-way relationship.

The legislation can be adopted as drafted or amended to suit the needs of your state. For example, States could adopt a version which provides any or all of the following features:

- There could be no cost to the taxpayer in each State as the Commission could be charged with raising the funds to do its work to visit Ireland and host visiting Irish Delegations
- People may be appointed by the Governor, the Senate President, Speaker/ Majority Leader, and Minority Leader.
- Members can be appointed by the Chambers of Commerce in the State or an equivalent organization and by the Universities or their representative Associations.
- The remaining open places on the Commission could be drawn from the retired members of the State or federal legislative delegations so that institutional knowledge is retained. Leaders of the business community in the State with an interest in Ireland could be appointed to the commission.

State Legislative Leaders
April 23, 2024
Page 2

- The membership of the Commission ideally would be bipartisan like the membership of the American Irish State Legislator Caucus.
- The members can range from 9 as is the case with West Virginia or up to 23 as is the case with New Jersey.

We value our relationship with our Irish friends and look forward to deepening our shared connections. Our objective in adopting legislation to create the Irish Trade Commission is to enhance those mutually beneficial opportunities.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roger Hanshaw".

Roger Hanshaw
Speaker



Letter of Support – HB 1568

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Chairman Schauer and members of the House Veteran and Government Affairs,

For the record, my name is Cale Dunwoody, and I have the distinct pleasure of serving as the Vice President of Public Policy for the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce (FMWF Chamber). On behalf of our over 1,700 members, I respectfully offer testimony in support of House Bill 1568.

At the FMWF Chamber, our mission is to protect and promote business, inspire individuals, cultivate communities, and influence action. We support opportunities, such as this, which allow businesses and the State's economy to reach new heights of productivity and value. By expanding relationships between North Dakota and trusted allies, our state can enhance trade partnerships, increase academic exchanges and diversify economic interests.

We urge the committee to give this bill a DO PASS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Cale Dunwoody
Vice President of Public Policy
Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce



24th Chair of the Senate of Ireland

To Whom This May Concern,

I am delighted to share some information with you and your committee members which may be of interest.

The links between Ireland and the United States are strong and enduring. In 2024 we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between our two republics. The United States was there for Ireland over one hundred years ago in our struggle for Independence, the only country mentioned by name, other than Ireland, in the 1916 Proclamation, Ireland's equivalent of the American Declaration of Independence, is your country where it says, "supported by her exiled children in America".

The United States was also there for Ireland just over 25 years ago for the Good Friday Peace Agreement. We know there are people alive in Ireland today because of the continual bipartisan support of State Legislators; successive US Presidents, the United States Senate, the United States House of Representatives and various elected officials who worked with the Government of Ireland to ensure the success of the Good Friday Peace Agreement, after 20 years of violence. For the ongoing support of the United States for our Peace Process, we in Ireland are eternally grateful.

We want to continue to promote ongoing trade, peace, education, political and people to people links. Ireland has direct access to the EU Market of 449 million people and 959 American companies, already based in Ireland, using it as a gateway to this EU Market. This is a two-way relationship with Ireland, as Ireland is the eighth largest investor in the United States.

Assemblywoman Carol Murphy who is the democratic whip in the New Jersey Assembly following a visit by a delegation from the New Jersey Legislature to Ireland authored the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission Legislation, this legislation was then picked up by the Republican Speaker of the West Virginia House of Delegates, both Bills have been passed into law and signed by the Governors in their respective states. The majority of US State Legislatures have now produced legislation to establish an Ireland Trade Commission.

I hope your State can work on this initiative and I look forward to building the great links between the United States and Ireland, in the years to come.

Is mise le meas

Senator Mark Daly

An Seanadóir Marcus O Dalaigh

Seanad Éireann,
Teach Laighean,
Sráid Chill Dara,
Baile Átha Cliath 2.

Tel: 00353 (1) 618 3830
Email: mark.daly@oireachtas.ie **Web:** senatormarkdaly.org

Senate of Ireland,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
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COMMISSIONER
DOUG GOEHRING



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NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE CAPITOL
600 E. BOULEVARD AVE. – DEPT. 602
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0020

Testimony of John Schneider
Business, Marketing and Industry Division Director
House Government and Veterans Affairs
Pioneer Room
January 31, 2025

Chairman Schauer and members of the House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, I am John Schneider, Business, Marketing and Industry Division Director here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of HB 1568 relating to the creation of the North Dakota Ireland Trade commission.

The Agriculture Commissioner has worked for many years to help expand opportunities for North Dakota businesses to sell products in international markets. Ireland is interested in working closer with North Dakota producers and businesses to invest in infrastructure, support economic growth, and share knowledge of production systems, practices and processing that will benefit both countries.

Chairman Schauer and committee members, thank you for your time. I urge a do pass on HB 1568. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

INTRODUCTION

By Representative Mary Schneider
of

HB 1568--North Dakota Ireland Trade Commission

Government and Veterans Affairs Committee, Austen Schauer, Chairman

January 31, 2025

Slainté, Chairman Schauer and fellow members of the Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. I am Representative Mary Schneider, and I proudly represent the people of District 21 in central Fargo and West Fargo.

I'm before you to introduce House Bill 1568, which is co-sponsored by three of four bipartisan co-chairs of the North Dakota American Irish Legislators Caucus, and others interested in the creation of a North Dakota Ireland Trade Commission.

This bill aims to establish a new chapter in title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, focusing on enhancing bilateral trade and investment between North Dakota and Ireland. The commission will promote business and academic exchanges, encourage mutual economic support, and address issues of mutual benefit. The commission will consist of two appointed members from our state Senate, and two from the House of Representatives, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Trade Office, another person knowledgeable about, and interested in, international trade, and the Agriculture Commissioner or his designee.

The bill outlines the administration, meeting schedules, and reimbursement policies for commission members, and mandates an annual report to legislative management detailing the commission's activities, benefits, and recommendations for supporting trade between North Dakota and Ireland.

Irish Senate Leader, Mark Daly, may have more recent figures when he testifies today, but my information is that 19 U.S. states have passed a similar commission with three more that were scheduled to pass one by the end of 2024, and around 14 on tap to consider a commission this year.

This would be our state's first trade commission, and for that honor, Ireland is a proper pick. It would allow us to partner with a country that has always been our friend and supporter. There are other reasons to have Ireland be our prototype, pilot project, or test drive.

Our American Irish Legislative Caucus has bound us together directly for some years now. North Dakota members were invited to Ireland as official guests to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement in 2023, a document which was promoted, negotiated, and supported by American George Mitchell among others, and helped bring peace between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

But our countries' longstanding inter-relationship extends back much further. Between the Irish famine in the mid-1800s and 1920, 3.7 million Irish emigrated to America, bringing families that multiplied to every state until by 1900 there were more Irish in America than in Ireland.

The Irish then and now can be disproportionately found in U.S. government, politics, and public services like law enforcement.

Twenty-two American Presidents have claimed Irish roots (although only 15 have proved it). The current President owns a golf course and hotel in Doonbeg, County Claire, Ireland.

If North Dakota is going to expand its international trade, we couldn't have a better partner. Ireland shares our language, our democratic values, has a highly educated population and workforce, and shares many of our cultural and artistic passions.

It has a prominent agricultural economy, but also currently hosts nearly 1,000 American businesses operating in Ireland, with many large corporations establishing their European headquarters in Ireland due to favorable tax conditions and a skilled workforce. These companies span various sectors, including technology, pharmaceuticals, and finance. And what a trading partner Ireland makes. You get a 3-for-one special: access to the Republic of Ireland, access to Northern Ireland, a British partner, and access to the European Union, of which Ireland is a member.

Even beyond the benefits of traditional trade opportunities, this commission could open expanded mutual tourism, since Ireland is one of the countries most visited by Americans. It could create a plethora of academic exchange opportunities.

There's really no downside to this bill, only potential. And maybe a little Irish magic. Please give HB 1568 a "do pass" (and see what gold there might be at the end of this rainbow).



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER

HB 1568

House Government & Veteran Affairs Committee

Chair Austen Schauer

January 31, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1568.

Our members recognize that North Dakota businesses are competing in a global economy. Because of this, it is important that we have a policy framework that helps the state attract capital investment.

We feel this bill would help explore new economic opportunities, and we support the concept.



January 31, 2025

House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee
Representative Austen Schauer, Chair
HB 1568

RE: Testimony of Dr. Tim Mahoney, Mayor of the City of Fargo in SUPPORT of HB 1568

Chair Schauer and Members of the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee:

The City of Fargo submits this testimony to the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee in SUPPORT of House Bill 1568 and urges a **“Do Pass”** recommendation.

North Dakota and its communities benefit from strong, bilateral trade relationships with partners and allies from other areas of the world. HB 1568 creates another opportunity to showcase North Dakota’s agricultural and industrial assets to a trading partner. At the same time, the North Dakota Ireland Trade Commission will provide our businesses and residents with the opportunity to learn more about investment Ireland can make in the State of North Dakota.

Creating mutual investment and interest in economic development between North Dakota and Ireland will benefit us all, and the City of Fargo welcomes the opportunity to increase economic vitality and partnership. We are excited to bring North Dakota and Ireland closer together for years to come to support our shared goals and interests.

I respectfully request the House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee support HB 1568 and urge a **“Do Pass”** recommendation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy J. Mahoney
Mayor

2025 SENATE INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

HB 1568

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry and Business Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1568
3/17/2025

A bill relating to the creation of the ND Ireland Trade commission; and to provide for a legislative management report.

10:33 p.m. Chairman Barta opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Barta, Vice-Chair Boehm, Senator Klein, Senator Kessel, Senator Enget

Discussion Topics:

- American Irish Legislative Caucus
- Relationship between Ireland and the United States
- American businesses in Ireland
- Trade agreements and opportunities with Ireland
- The European Union and political connections
- Other trade commissions with other countries
- Fiscal impact
- Specific state solitary trade potential
- Academic and research exchange
- Current exports to Ireland
- Commodities and preservation of ND origination
- Board and commission cutbacks

10:34 a.m. Representative Mary Schneider, District 21, testified in favor, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #42017.

10:50 a.m. Mark Daly, 24th Chair of the Senate of Ireland, testified in favor.

10:59 a.m. Senator Kathy K. Hogan, Senate Minority Leader, District 21, testified in favor and submitted testimony #42160.

11:02 a.m. John Schneider, Business, Marketing, and Industry Division Director, ND Department of Agriculture, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41638.

11:05 a.m. Drew Combs, Executive Director of the ND Trade Office, testified in neutral.

11:17 a.m. Representative Mary Schneider, District 21, answered the committee's questions.

Additional written testimony:

Andrea Pfennig, Vice President, Government Affairs, Greater ND Chamber, submitted testimony #41892 in favor.

Senate Industry and Business Committee

HB 1568

03/17/25

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11:19 a.m. Chairman Barta adjourned the meeting.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk

COMMISSIONER
DOUG GOEHRING



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NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE CAPITOL
600 E. BOULEVARD AVE. – DEPT. 602
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0020

Testimony of John Schneider
Business, Marketing and Industry Division Director
Senate Industry and Business
Fort Union
March 17, 2025

Chairman Barta and members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee, I am John Schneider, Business, Marketing and Industry Division Director here on behalf of Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. I am here today in support of HB 1568 relating to the creation of the North Dakota Ireland Trade commission.

The Agriculture Commissioner has worked for many years to help expand opportunities for North Dakota businesses to sell products in international markets. Ireland is interested in working closer with North Dakota producers and businesses to invest in infrastructure, support economic growth, and share knowledge of production systems, practices and processing that will benefit both countries.

Chairman Barta and committee members, thank you for your time. I urge a do pass on HB 1568. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER
HB 1568
Senate Industry & Business Committee
Chair Jeff Barta
March 17, 2025

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1568.

Our members recognize that North Dakota businesses are competing in a global economy. Because of this, it is important that we have a policy framework that helps the state attract capital investment.

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INTRODUCTION

By Representative Mary Schneider of
HB 1568--North Dakota Ireland Trade Commission

Senate Industry and Business Committee

Senator Jeff Barta, Chairman--Senator Keith Boehm, Vice Chairman

March 17, 2025

Good morning, Chairman Barta, Vice Chairman Boehm, and distinguished members of the Senate Industry and Business Committee. I am Representative Mary Schneider, and I proudly represent the people of District 21 in central Fargo and West Fargo.

I'm before you to introduce House Bill 1568, which is co-sponsored by three of four bipartisan co-chairs of the North Dakota American Irish Legislators Caucus, and others interested in the creation of a North Dakota Ireland Trade Commission.

This bill aims to establish a new chapter in title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code, focusing on enhancing bilateral trade and investment between North Dakota and Ireland. The commission will promote business and academic exchanges, encourage mutual economic support, and address issues of mutual benefit. The commission will consist of two appointed members from our state Senate, and two from the House of Representatives, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Trade Office, another person knowledgeable about, and interested in, international trade, and the Agriculture Commissioner or his designee.

The bill outlines the administration, meeting schedules, and reimbursement policies for commission members, and mandates an annual report to legislative management detailing the commission's activities, benefits, and recommendations for supporting trade between North Dakota and Ireland.

My information from the time the bill was first drafted was that 19 U.S. states had passed a similar commission with three more that were scheduled to pass one by the end of last year, and around 14 on tap to consider a commission in 2025.

This would be our state's first trade commission, and for that honor, Ireland is a proper pick. It would allow us to partner with a country that has always been our friend and supporter. But there are also other reasons to have Ireland be our prototype, pilot project, or test drive.

Our American Irish Legislative Caucus has bound us together directly for some years now. North Dakota members were invited to Ireland as official guests to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Agreement in 2023, a document which was promoted, negotiated, and

supported by American George Mitchell among others, and helped bring peace between Northern Ireland and the Republic.

But our countries' longstanding inter-relationship extends back much further. Between the Irish famine in the mid-1800s and 1920, 3.7 million Irish emigrated to America, bringing families that multiplied to every state until by 1900 there were more Irish in America than in Ireland.

The Irish then and now can be disproportionately found in U.S. government, politics, and public services like law enforcement.

Twenty-two American Presidents have claimed Irish roots (although only 15 have proved it). The current President owns a golf course and hotel in Doonbeg, County Claire, Ireland. If you saw that the Irish Taoiseach Micheal Martin was at the White House last week and there appeared in headlines to be a bit of a "dust-up" as the Irish say, when talking about trade imbalances and other issues, never fear. President Trump also said the same day he "loves the Irish" and "We're always going to have that special friendship." The President added, "The bond between our nations is as old as our country itself." And in a separate breakfast for the Irish leader hosted by Vice-President J.D. Vance last Wednesday, Vance described the US-Ireland relationship as "one of the great alliances and great friendships between nations."

So, if North Dakota is going to expand its international trade, we couldn't have a better partner. Ireland shares our language, our democratic values, has a highly educated population and workforce, and shares many of our cultural and artistic passions.

It has a prominent agricultural economy, but also currently hosts nearly 1,000 American businesses operating in Ireland, with many large corporations establishing their European headquarters in Ireland due to favorable tax conditions and a skilled workforce. These companies span various sectors, including technology, pharmaceuticals, and finance. And what a trading partner Ireland makes. You get a 3-for-one special if you have a trade commission with Ireland: access to the Republic of Ireland, access to Northern Ireland, a British partner, and access to the European Union, of which Ireland is a member.

Even beyond the benefits of traditional trade opportunities, this commission could open expanded mutual tourism, since Ireland is one of the countries most visited by Americans. It could create a plethora of academic exchange opportunities.

There's really no downside to this bill, only potential. And maybe a little Irish magic. Please give HB 1568 a "do pass" (and let's see what gold there might be at the end of this rainbow).

**HB 1568 Testimony
Senator Kathy Hogan
Senate Industry Business and Labor
March 17, 2025**

Chairman Barta and members of the Industry and Business Committee, for the record, my name is Kathy Hogan, and I represent District 21 which is central Fargo and a portion of West Fargo. I am testifying in support of this bill.

The United States and North Dakota have a proud history of many collaborations. Beginning in the 1800s, the Catholic Church began asking for both Priests and Sisters from Ireland to help settle our state. In the Fargo Diocese, three of the first six Bishops were Irish and the Irish Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary settled in Fargo in 1882 beginning a long history of opening over 25 schools and 10 hospitals in eastern North Dakota. The Irish settled all over ND, but primarily in the northwest corner places like Kenmare and Donnybrook.

This bill is modeled after similar trade agreements in at least 19 other states. The ND American Irish Caucus had 13-members last session and as the Senate Caucus leader I invite all of you with Irish Heritage to consider joining the Caucus which meets regularly at both NCSL and CSG meetings.

It has been my privilege to travel to Ireland several times and immediately fell in love with the land, the people and customs. Ireland is among the world's leading exporters of computer software. The principal imports include machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, petroleum and petroleum products, food products, and textiles.

Thank you for considering this bill and I am more than willing to answer any questions.

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Industry and Business Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HB 1568
3/18/2025

A bill relating to relating to the creation of the North Dakota Ireland trade commission; and to provide for a legislative management report.

3:39 p.m. Chairman Barta opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Barta, Vice-Chair Boehm, Senator Klein, Senator Kessel, Senator Enget

Discussion Topics:

- Majority leader language changes
- Sunset clause
- Committee Action

3:40 p.m. Senator Kessel moved to adopt amendment LC# 25.0954.02002.

3:41 p.m. Senator Klein seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

3:42 p.m. Chairman Barta led committee discussion regarding the value and necessity of the bill.

3:54 p.m. Senator Klein moved Without Recommendation.

3:54 p.m. Senator Enget seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Jeff Barta	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Jerry Klein	Y

Motion passed 5-0-0.

Senator Barta will carry the bill.

3:58 p.m. Chairman Barta adjourned the meeting.

Audrey Oswald, Committee Clerk

March 18, 2025

3/18/25
1 of 2

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

HOUSE BILL NO. 1568

Introduced by

Representatives Schneider, Klemin, Dobervich, McLeod, Murphy, O'Brien

Senators Hogan, Mathern

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century
2 Code, relating to the creation of the North Dakota Ireland trade commission; ~~and~~ to provide for a
3 legislative management report; and to provide an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

- 5 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 54 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and
6 enacted as follows:

7 **North Dakota Ireland trade commission - Membership.**

- 8 1. The North Dakota Ireland trade ~~commissions~~commission shall:
9 a. Advance bilateral trade and investment between the state and Ireland;
10 b. Initiate joint action on issues of mutual interest to the state and Ireland;
11 c. Promote business and academic exchanges between the state and Ireland;
12 d. Encourage mutual economic support between the state and Ireland;
13 e. Encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of the state and Ireland; and
14 f. Address any other issues deemed to be of mutual benefit to the state and
15 Ireland.
16 2. The North Dakota Ireland trade commission consists of:
17 a. Two members of the senate, appointed by the ~~president pro tempore~~majority
18 leader of the senate;
19 b. Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the ~~speaker~~majority
20 leader of the house;

- 1 c. The executive director of the North Dakota trade office;
- 2 d. An individual knowledgeable of and interested in the promotion of international
- 3 trade, appointed by the executive director of the North Dakota trade office; and
- 4 e. The agriculture commissioner, or the commissioner's designee.
- 5 3. Each appointed member shall serve for a term of two years. If a position becomes
- 6 vacant, the position must be filled for the duration of the term in the same manner as
- 7 the original appointment.
- 8 4. At the initial meeting of the commission and annually thereafter, the members shall
- 9 select one from among the four appointed legislators to serve as the chair.

10 **Administration - Meetings - Reimbursement.**

- 11 1. The North Dakota trade office shall provide administrative services to the North
- 12 Dakota Ireland trade commission and compensation under subsection 3.
- 13 2. The commission shall meet two to four times per year, as deemed necessary by the
- 14 chair, at the call of the chair.
- 15 3. Each member of the North Dakota Ireland trade commission may be reimbursed upon
- 16 request for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the member's duties at
- 17 the rate provided for members of the legislative assembly under subsection 1 of
- 18 section 54-03-20.

19 **Report to legislative management.**

20 On or before September first of each year, the North Dakota Ireland trade commission shall
21 provide a report to the legislative management. The report must include:

- 22 1. A description of the commission's work;
- 23 2. A description of benefits to the state, and to sectors involved in international trade,
- 24 attributable to the commission's efforts;
- 25 3. Recommendations for legislation that would support trade between the state and
- 26 Ireland; and
- 27 4. A summary of anticipated commission activities in the following year.

28 **SECTION 2. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through July 31, 2029, and after that
29 date is ineffective.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HB 1568**

Industry and Business Committee (Sen. Barta, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.0954.02002](#)) and when so amended, recommends the measure **BE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1568 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.